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THE BEST OF THE Wrestler

Spring 1981
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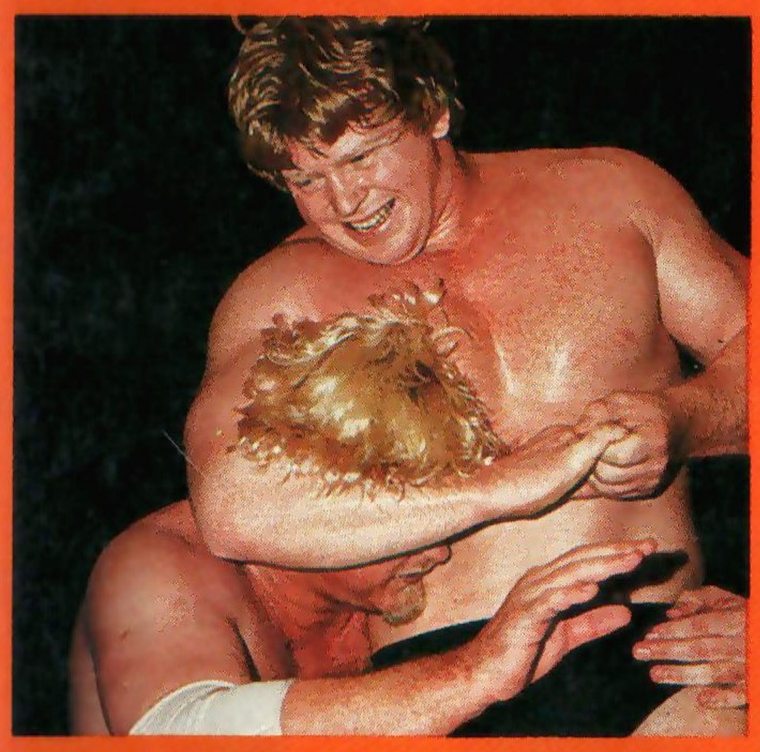
Dusty Rhodes vs. Superstar Graham: STAR WARS!



ON THE ROAD WITH BOB BACKLUND

WHY RIC FLAIR HOLDS THE KEY TO ANDRE'S TITLE HOPES

when I planned to **retire before**

this is the business that made it possible

Starting with borrowed money, in just eight years I gained financial security, sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

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"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

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fifty

a true story
by John B. Haikey

as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible —I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

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THE BEST OF THE Wrestler THE

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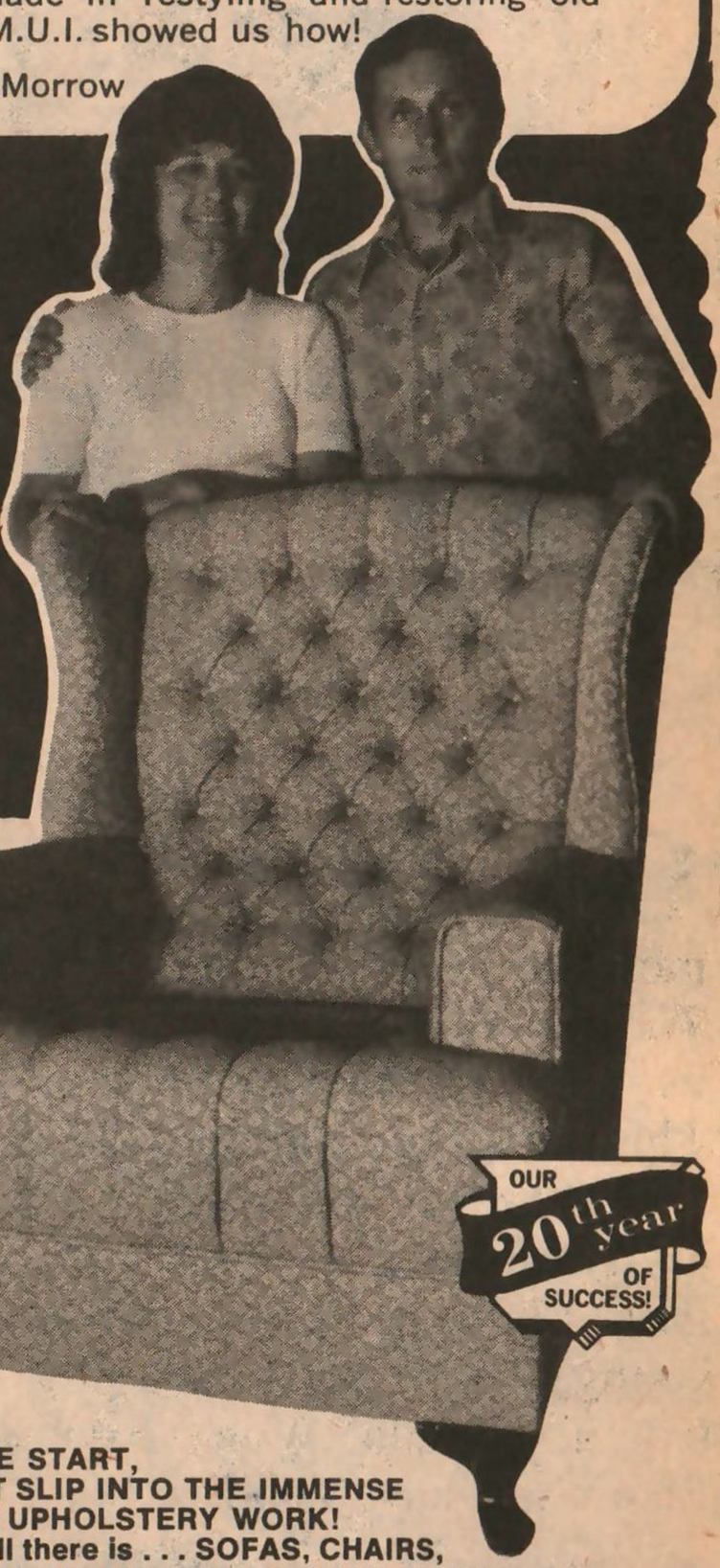

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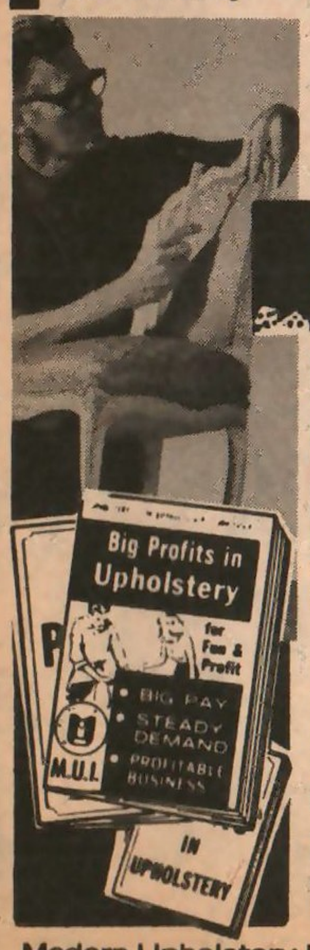

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INTRODUCTION

THE BEST OF THE WRESTLER: THE BEST OF THE BEST!

ONCE AGAIN, it is time to relive the most exciting moments in wrestling history as *The Best of the Wrestler* opens its vaults of solid gold stories. This month's lineup:

• **Who's Inferior?** first presented in December 1977, looked into the match between young Tony Atlas and the hateful Waldo Von Erich. Before the bout, Von Erich had made charges about Atlas' ability. After the bout, Von Erich wasn't talking. Read why.

• **The Night A Kid Set The Garden On Fire,** from the June 1977 issue, introduced readers to Gino Hernandez when he made his Madison Square Garden debut. At this time, Hernandez was loved by fans everywhere. Since then, something has gone very wrong with this young man's philosophy.

• **Ken Patera-World's Strongest Man** takes us back to March 1978 when Patera competed in a televised strongman contest. He didn't win, but this exclusive story tells why.

• **Stan Hansen: Portrait Of A Ruthless Man** furnished a glimpse into the personality of this violent athlete when it was first published in August 1978. If anything, Hansen is more ruthless today.

• **Teammates On A Collision Course** was published in March 1978. The two men the story focused on were Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko, who at the time were the WWF tag team champions. Today, they are bitter enemies. Enough said.

• **Why Ric Flair Holds The Key To Andre's Title Hopes** first appeared in April 1978. At the time, the story was considered shocking. We wonder if people will be as

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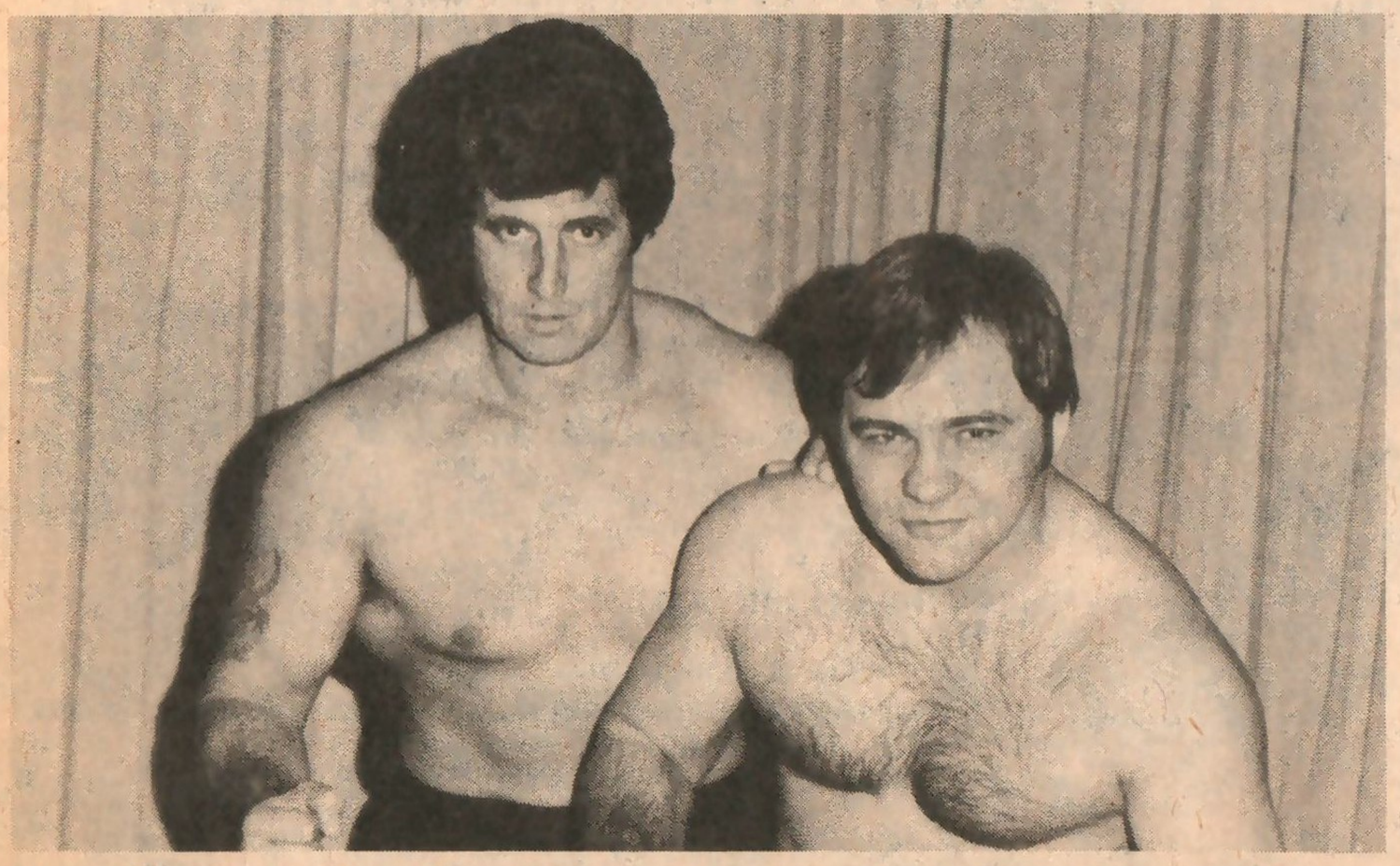

Larry Zbyszko and Tony Garea, in happier times in March 1978. Today, the one-time WWF tag team champions are bitter enemies. Our story of nearly three years ago predicted the rift.

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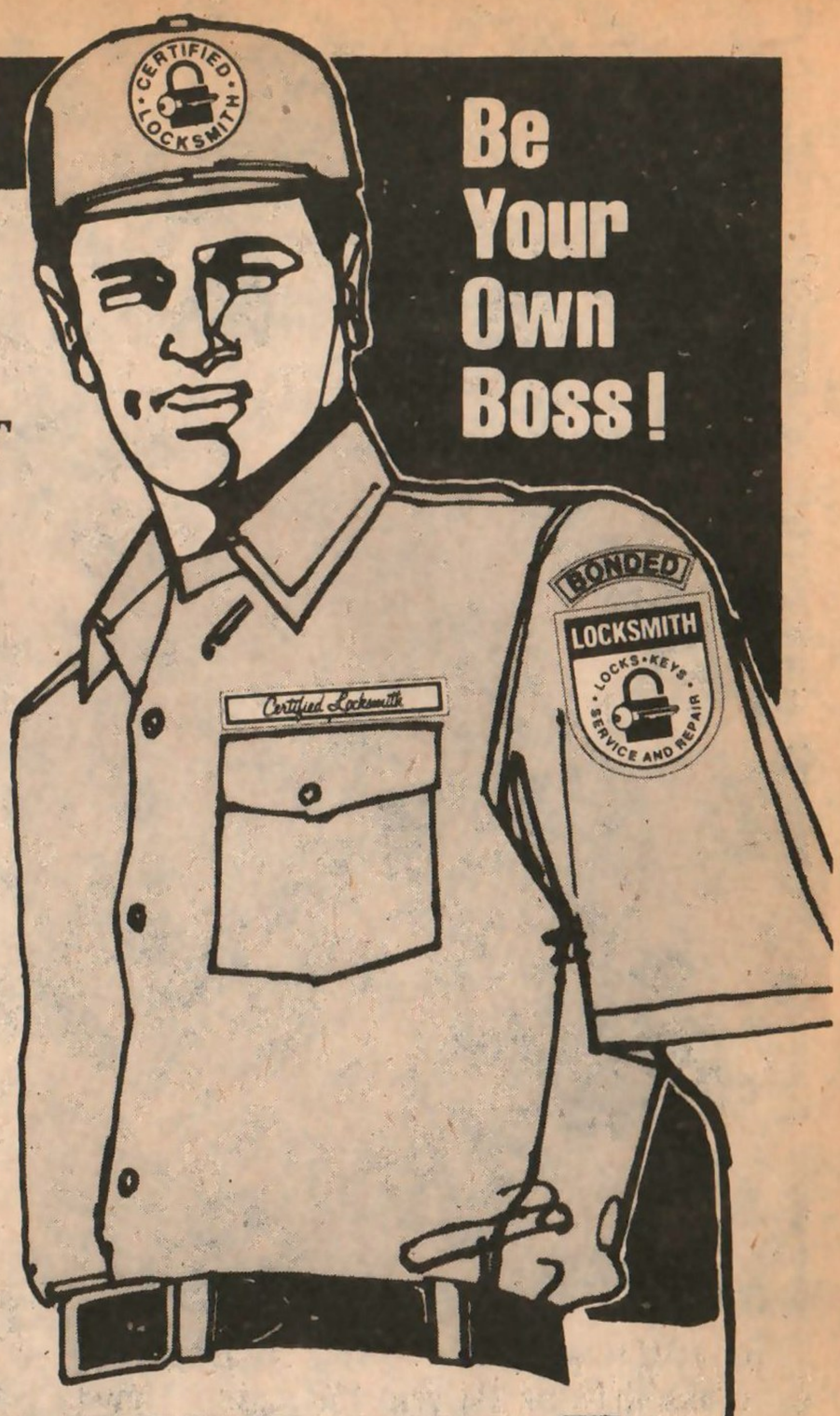

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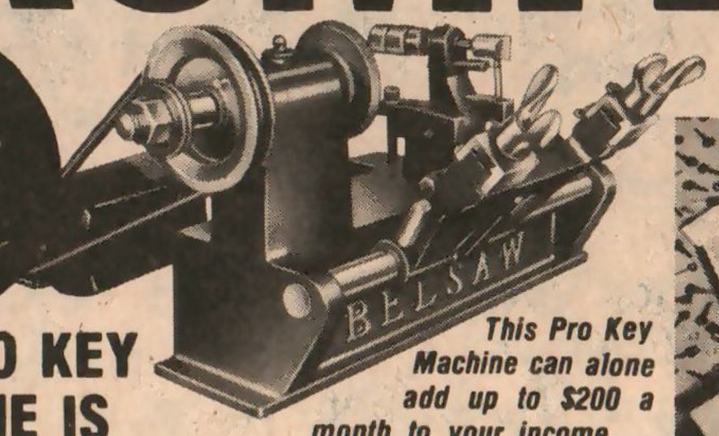

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Tony Atlas sends Waldo Von Erich sailing across the ring early in the match. Tony wanted more than anything to savage Von Erich.

WHO'S INFERIOR?

WITH THE FURY of an avenging angel, Tony Atlas hurled Waldo Von Erich across the canvas. The Nazi spokesman crashed into the ropes and fell hard to the mat.

The crowd rose to its feet. Atlas, with the majesty of human dignity, leaped upon his foe. What followed was a series of maneuvers guaranteed to make any foe into a victim. Von Erich couldn't possibly survive this awesome onslaught. Soon, the match was over. Waldo Von Erich left the arena in disgrace. He had flagrantly broken the rules, guaranteeing he would be disqualified. This was not the way a member of the "Master Race" behaves.

Watching his victim flee in shame, Atlas stood in the middle of the ring. Surrounding him were cheering fans. They knew what this victory meant. Waldo Von Erich's Nazi lies would be silenced for a while at least. Any escape from his words of hatred are a gift gratefully accepted. Tony Atlas was the most grateful of all.

As Tony walked triumphantly back to the dressing room, he remembered Waldo's boasts before the match. "As a member of the Master Race," Von Erich proclaimed, "I will make short work of this inconspicuous fool. I am superior above all others, me and others of my race. Atlas is fit to be my beast of burden. I am his natural conqueror."

"Natural conqueror," Tony thought with a laugh, "well, it must have been an unnatural

(Continued on page 10)

The Nazi terror of Waldo Von Erich tried to spread its poison. Tony Atlas was the intended victim. But mealy-mouthed slanders couldn't defeat Tony's spirit. Once again, the Nazi menace died in the face of human dignity

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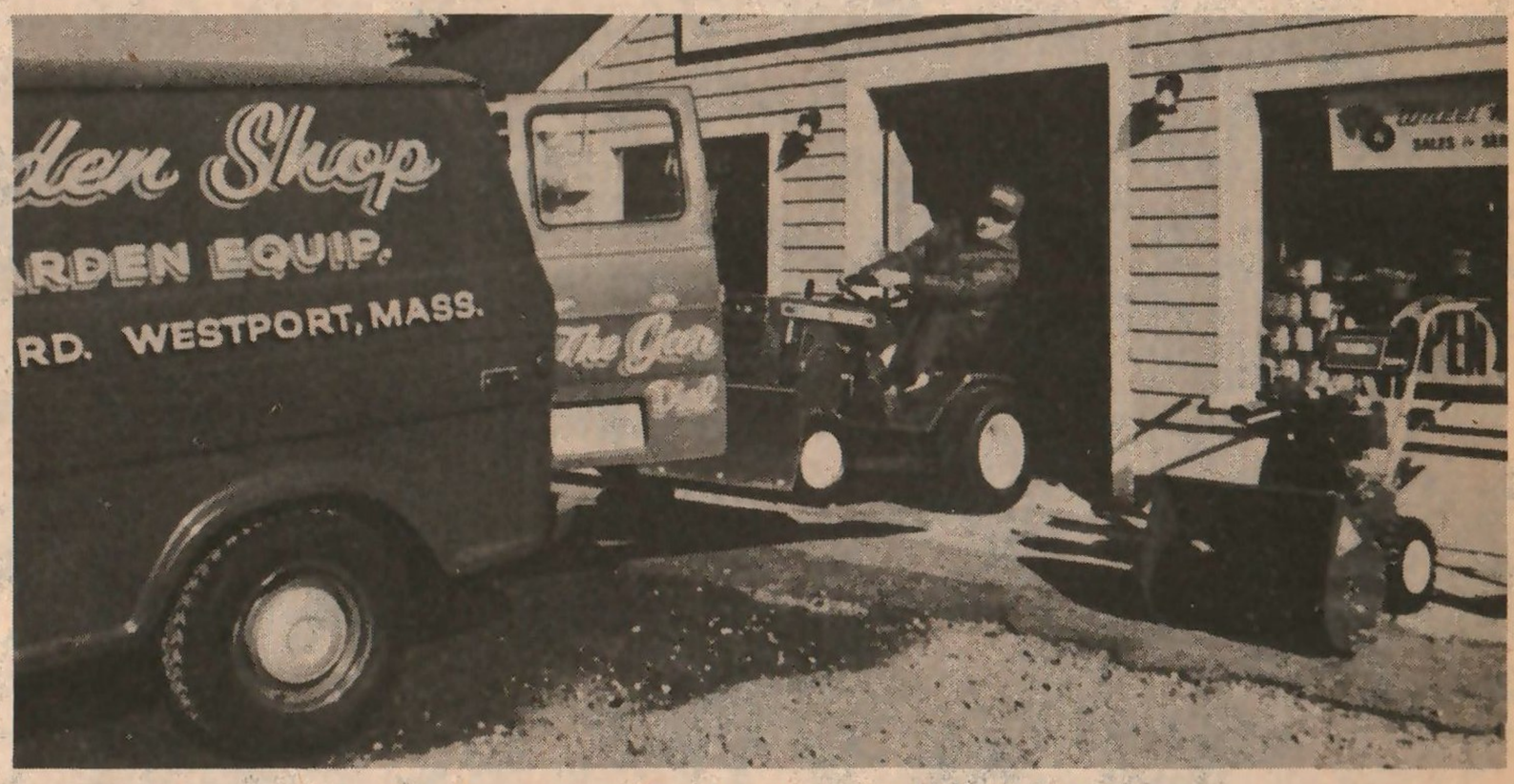

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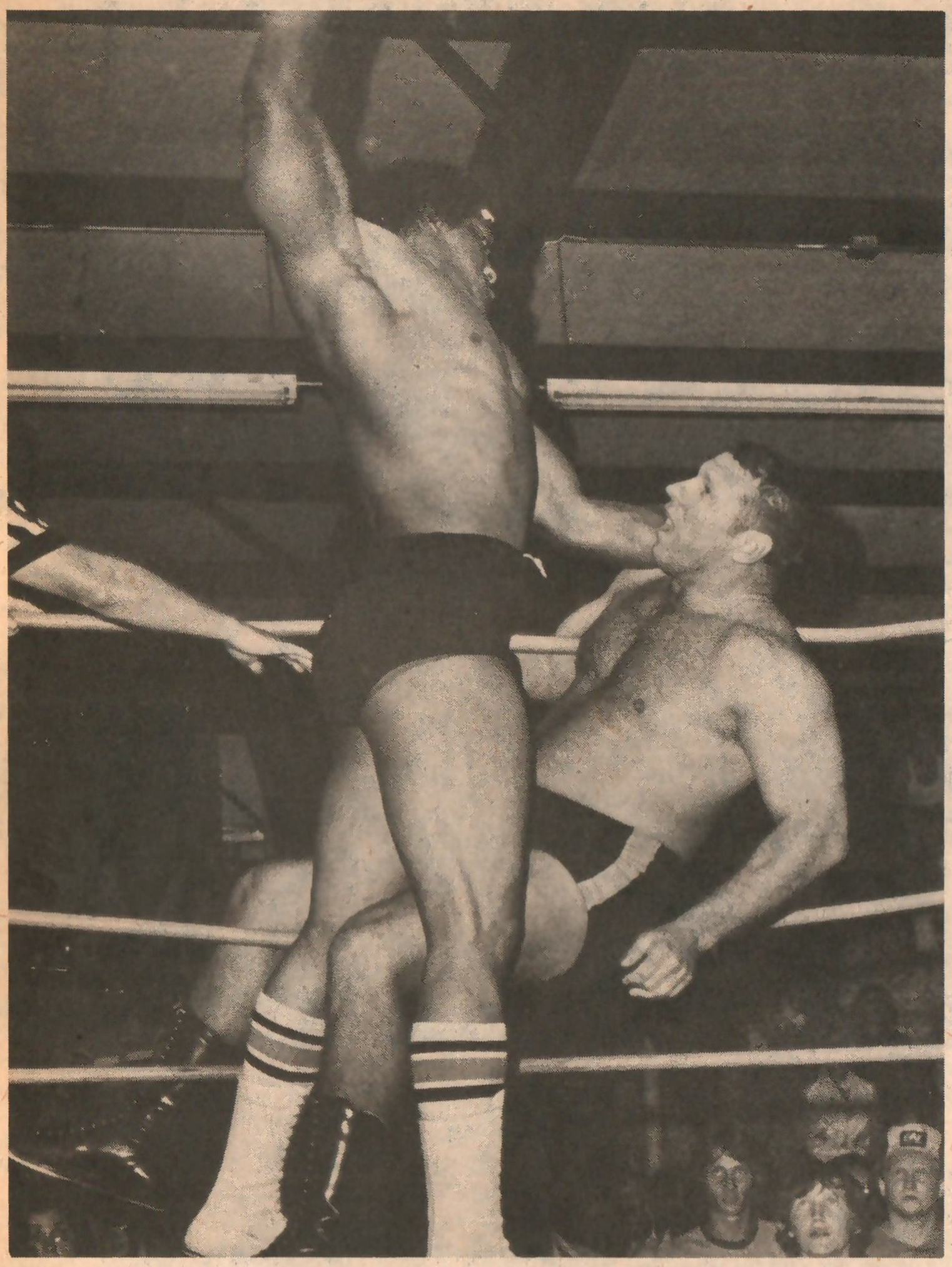
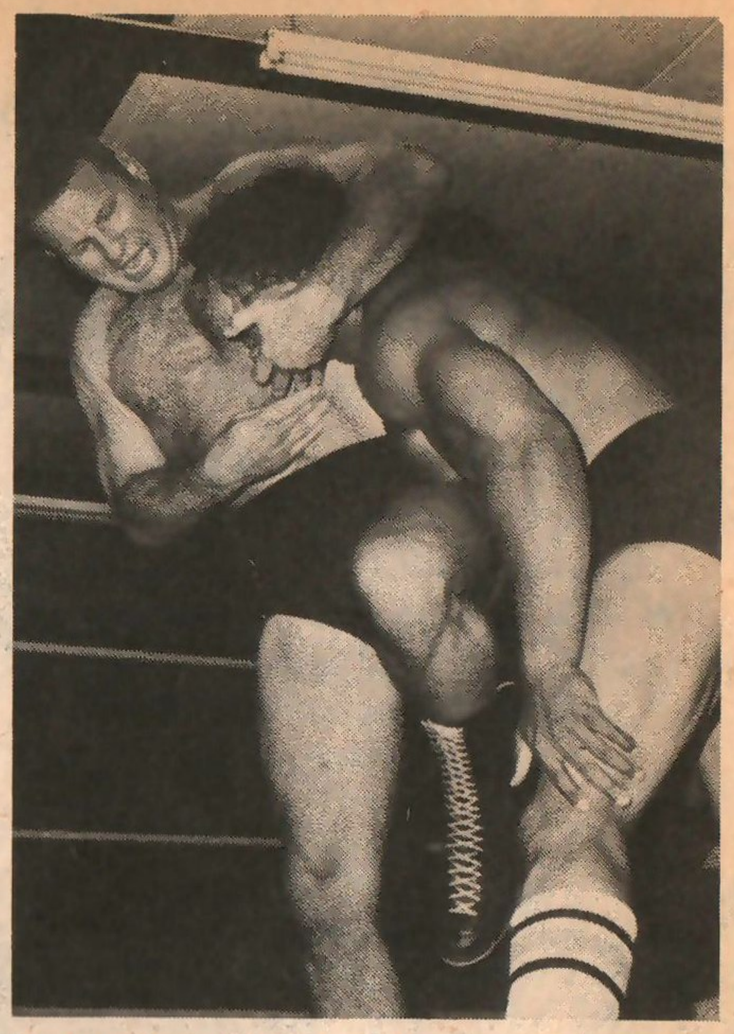


Von Erich is snarled in the ropes, helpless to escape Tony's devastating punches. Atlas showed the avowed Nazi no mercy as Von Erich suffered the extent of Tony's rage and bitter hatred.



Waldo Von Erich is ruthless as he chokes Tony early in the match. It was one of the few moments when Von Erich enjoyed an advantage.

night. No man is another's natural conqueror, fool. And your battered body is proof of that. All your Nazi lies fell before my ability. And you'll never be able to forget it. You can bet none of the fans will."

Tony proceeded to walk through the cheering throng, head held high and eyes bright. This was the most important match of his life. More than a title, more than a fortune, this was the match he had to win.

"When I was a kid," Tony said later in the dressing room, "I heard how Jesse Owens had shown Hitler up in front of the entire world. The Nazi dictator had promised his Master Race Aryans would conquer the world at the 1936 Olympics. Then Jesse Owens, a great black athlete, showed up his lies for nothing more than empty ravings of hate. The world saw Hitler for what he was; all those not too consumed by hatred to see the truth, anyway. Owens used athletics to make the world a better place to live in. I always wanted to do the same.

"Tonight, I followed in Jesse Owens' footsteps. I took on the Nazi and devastated him. He choked on his own hateful lying. Von Erich failed to spread his hatred."

That night, Tony went out and celebrated. The joy of dignity made his every move a pleasure. This was the greatest night of his life and all the world was his playground. Those who met him were immediately drawn into his circle of friends. The group soon swelled to over 30 revelers. It was one of the great victory celebrations in wrestling history.

Waldo Von Erich snuck out of the arena after everyone else left. He refuses to say what his late evening activities were. One can suppose the grappler ran home and hid under his bed. After all, the world is a harsh place for a Nazi who discovers there is no Master Race. □

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Yes . . . Witchcraft! Every time you hear the word it brings with it the feelings of deep occult secrets—secrets that you would like to know so that your life can be better; so that your enemies will stop bothering you; so that serenity, love, power and comfort can be yours!

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT lays bare these secrets for the first time! Do you want a bank account bursting at the seams with money? A love life that would make a sultan envious? Supreme power to crush your enemies and reward your friends? What would it be worth to you to utter a simple incantation that would cause any pain to vanish? Or say another, and immediately recover some lost object?

What would it be worth to you to fly through time and space, on astral wings, as Witches do . . . go wherever you wish . . . do whatever you wish . . . without being detected . . . watch the antics of others behind closed doors . . . hear private conversations . . . make time run forward or backward . . . read tomorrow's newspaper in a "black mirror" . . . find out what really happened in history . . . make your face old or young at will!

BRINGS AUTOMATIC ASSURED SUCCESS!

Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the boss to give you that raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! You don't have to be wealthy or super-intelligent to get started! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER that gives you—literally—life and death control over other persons! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working . . . how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE . . . how to get a first-class plane seat FREE . . . how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some $250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE *and* receives $200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

IN THIS WITCH BOOK YOU'LL DISCOVER . . .

- How to Cast Spells that Really Work!
- Your Magic Window on the World!
- Personal Protection!
- Telepathy Made Easy!
- Influencing Others to Do Your Bidding!
- Controlling a Conversation!
- The Technique of Silent Persuasion!
- Using Witchcraft to Find Friends!
- How to Find the Lover You Want!
- How to Bring Your Perfect Mate to You!
- How to Dominate Others!
- Witchcraft Power for Money!
- Witchcraft Power to Make You Irresistible to Others!
- Spells for Finding Lost Objects!
- How to Always Win with Luck Spells!
- More Power for Bigger Goals!
- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
- Recharging Your Cosmic Batteries!
- Raising Your Vital Energy Level!
- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience . . . we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A Witch uses ancient methods to make time stand still or to run it backward or forward! To make your face look young or old at will, all you need is some morning dew, and the instructions on page 27. You can fly through time and space, on astral wings, go anywhere, do anything, with the simple method on page 126. You can visit a friend, look in on an acquaintance and see what he is doing—even appear in someone's dreams, and convince that person to do whatever you wish!

• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

SEND TODAY FOR YOUR NO-RISK COPY!

Witchcraft can make you rich, even in a ghetto! You should never have to worry about the rent, or where the next dollar is coming from, never have to apologize to a boss! No matter how poor you are now, THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT can bring you a life filled to the brim with pleasure, wealth, and all the glittering luxuries of the world! To get your copy of this amazing Witch Book, simply fill out and mail the no-risk coupon!

MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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When you receive your copy of THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, we will send you the witches protection pentagon medallion (See p. 26) that will protect you from evil. Whether you keep the book or not, this handsome, powerful amulet is yours as a gift. So send in this no-risk coupon right now!

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Now! Let This Amazing Witch Book Bring You INFINITE WEALTH, FINE POSSESSIONS, A COMFORTABLE NEW HOME, FINANCIAL SECURITY, LOVE, CONTROL OVER OTHERS, And More—Easily And Automatically!

For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money—whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money—a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiples! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

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8—WAHOO McDANIEL
9—DINO BRAVO
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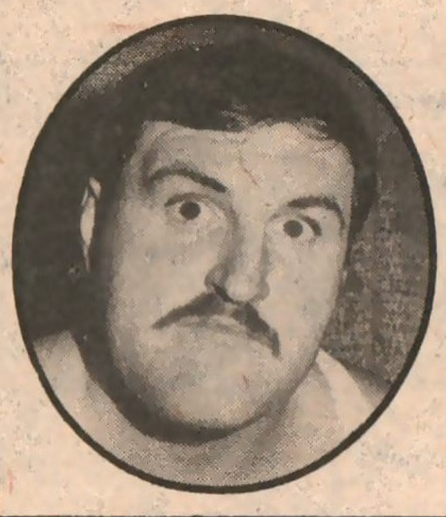
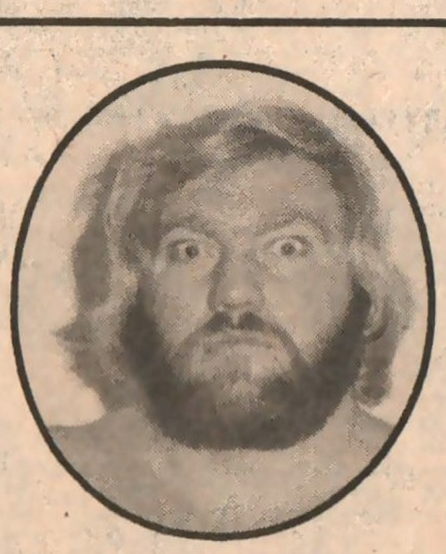
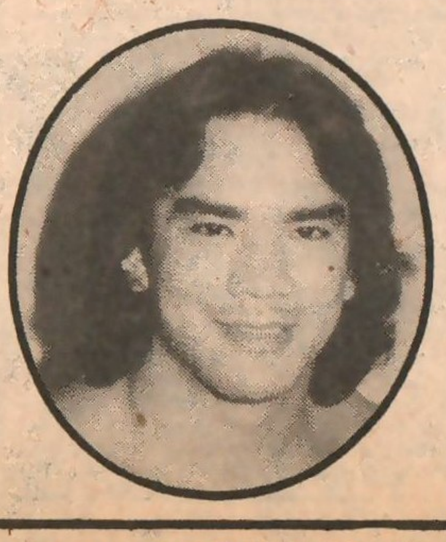


SGT. SLAUGHTER

TED DiBIASE



JOHN STUDD



RICK STEAMBOAT

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2—DUSTY RHODES
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4—TONY ATLAS
5—DICK SLATER
6—KEN PATERA
7—MASKED GRAPPLER
8—TED DiBIASE
9—TERRY FUNK
10—JIM BRUNZELL

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2—TONY GAREA & RICK MARTEL
3—JESSE VENTURA & ADRIAN ADONIS
4—THE FREEBIRDS
5—THE SHEEPHERDERS
6—BARRY WINDHAM & SCOTT McGEE
7—THE MOONDOGS
8—THE SAMOANS
9—TOMMY & EDDIE GILBERT
10—KILLER BROOKS & STAN STASIAK

MOST HATED

1—LARRY ZBYSZKO
2—TOMMY RICH
3—KEN PATERA
4—GREG VALENTINE
5—KILLER KHAN
6—MASKED GRAPPLER
7—BOBBY JAGGERS
8—EDDY MANSFIELD
9—TERRY GORDY
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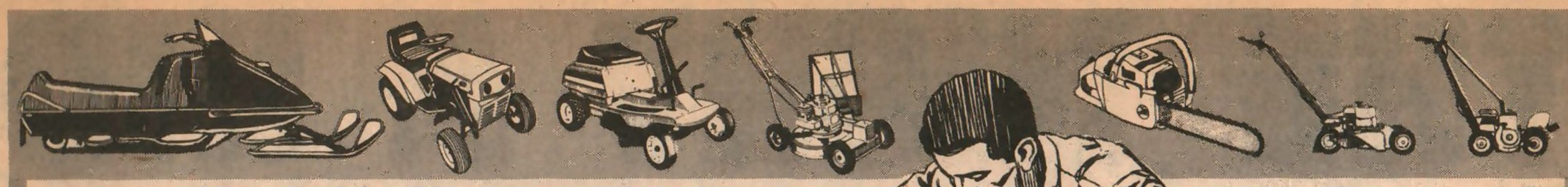
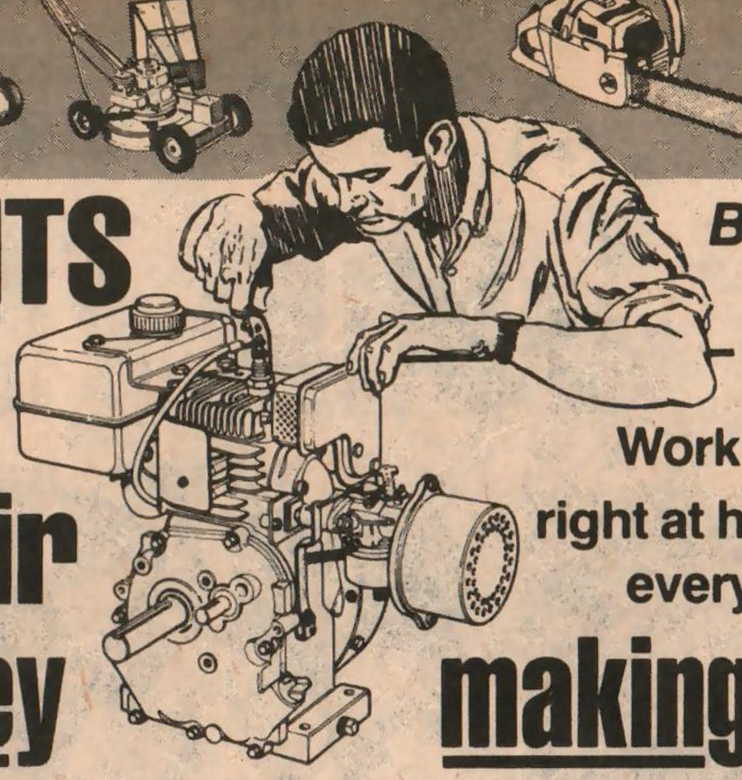


Get in on the PROFITS in SMALL ENGINE service and repair



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Cash in on the huge demand for small engine repair.

Work part time, full time right at home - we help you every step of the way.

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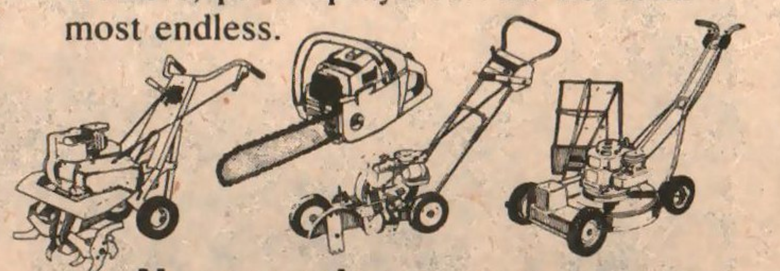
In just a short time, you can be ready to join one of the fastest growing industries in America... an industry where qualified men are making from $10.00 to $15.00 per hour...and that's just for labor. Parts, engines and accessories add even more to the profits.

Because the small engine industry has grown so quickly, an acute shortage of qualified Small Engine Professionals exists throughout the country. In fact, it's not unusual for a good small engine man to be three to four weeks behind in the summer and at least a week behind in the winter. When you see how many small engines are in use today, it's easy to understand why qualified men command such high prices—as much as $17.50 for a simple tune-up that takes less than an hour!

46-million small engines are in service today!

That's right—there are over forty-six million 2-cycle and 4-cycle small engines in service across the U.S.A. That's the official count from the Engine Service Assn., and new engines are being built at a rate of one-million per month! With fully accredited and approved Belsaw training, you can soon have the skill and knowledge to make top money servicing these engines. Homeowners and businessmen will seek you out and pay you well to service and repair their lawnmowers, tillers, edgers, power rakes, garden tractors, chain saws, mini-bikes, go-carts, snowmobiles, generators, snowblowers, paint sprayers... the list is almost endless.



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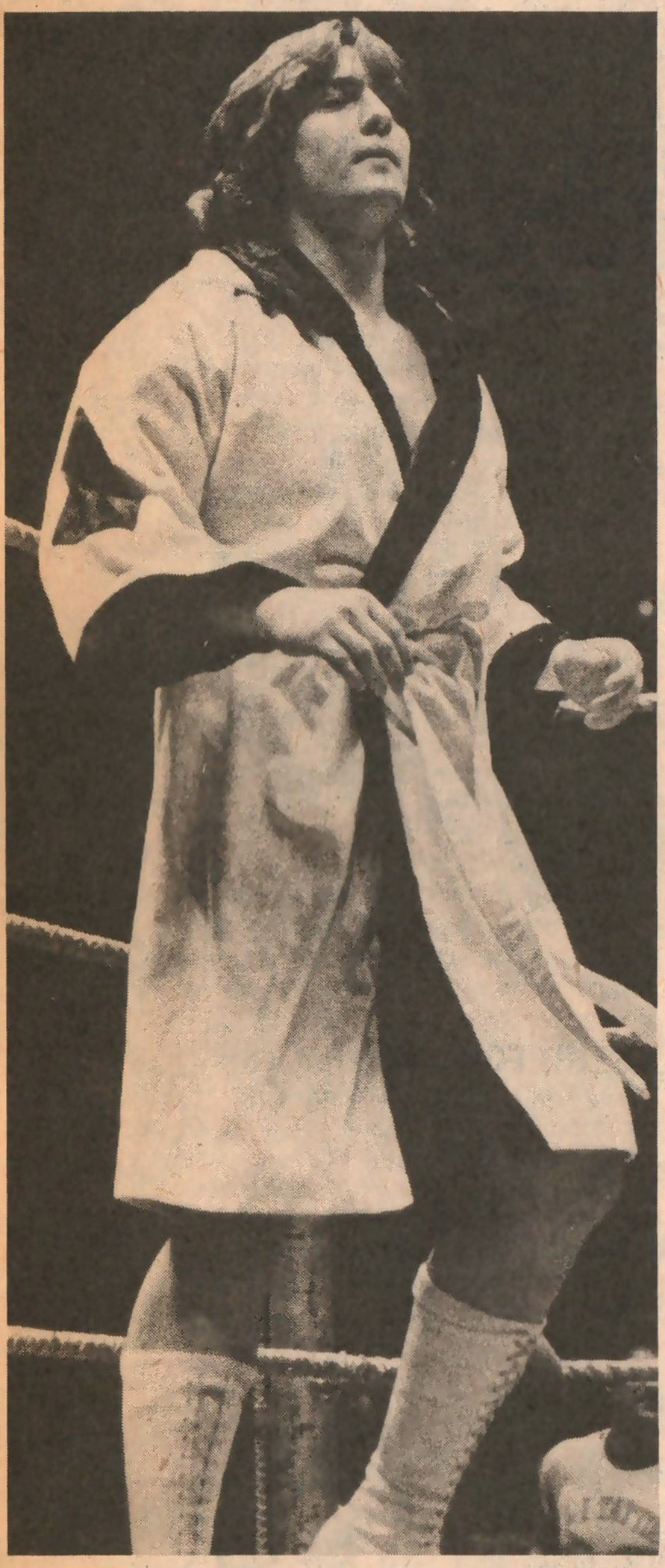
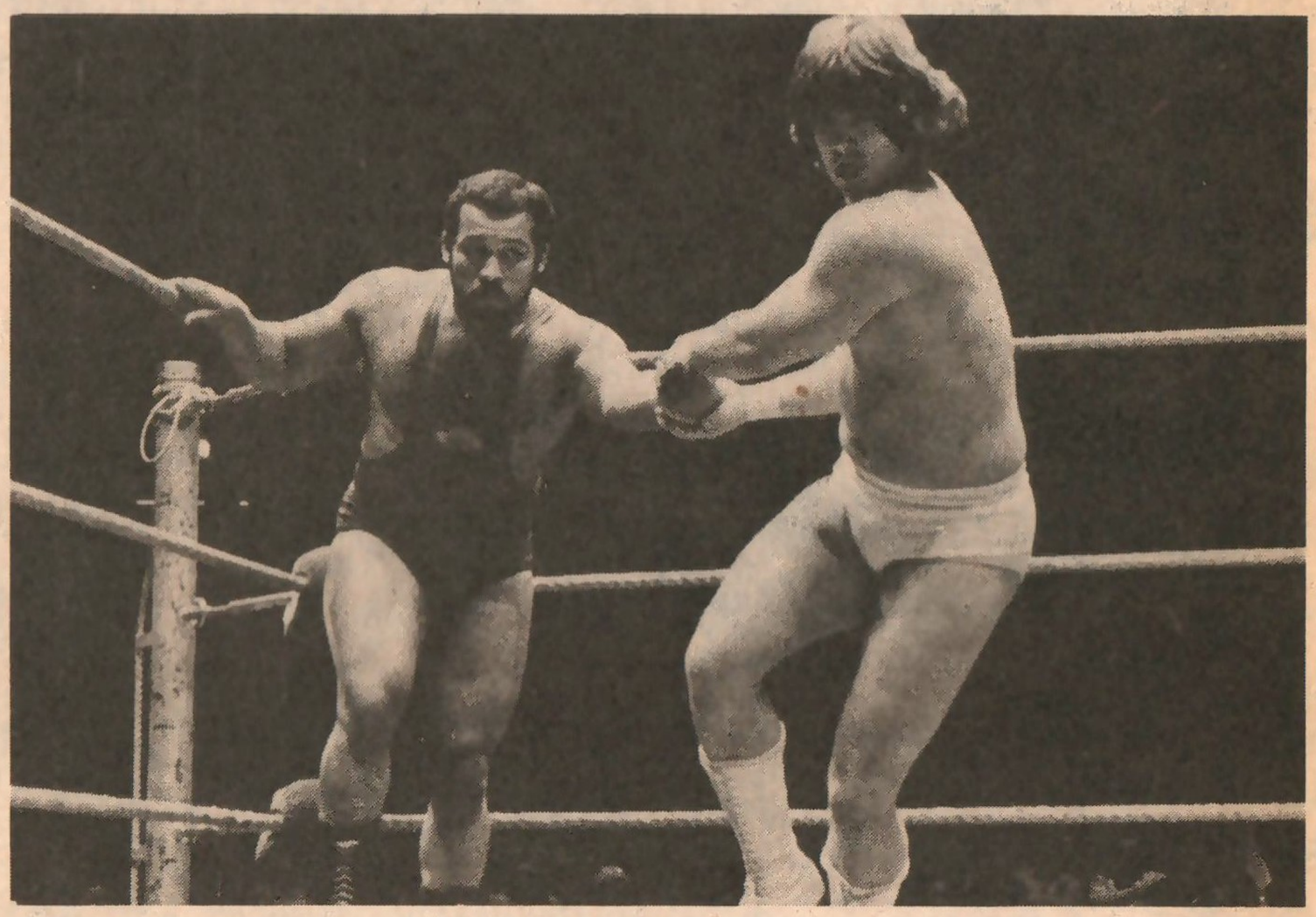
THE NIGHT A KID SET THE GARDEN ON FIRE





Before his match against Johnny Rodz (right), only a handful of people even knew who Gino Hernandez was. However, that changed a few minutes later. The young man wrestled brilliantly against Rodz (above), and had the thousands of spectators on their feet and cheering!

THE ELECTRICITY TINGLED down the back of everyone's neck. Something important was happening. No one had to say anything; there was no question involved. Gino Hernandez was great.

Even his opponent, Johnny Rodz, knew it. Here was this young kid, not even 20, giving him the battle of a lifetime. The wily veteran stood confounded in the middle of the ring. What was going on?

The cheers of fans rocked the arena; some even got to their feet. Hernandez knew of nothing except he was

(Continued on page 62)

They had never seen the young man before. Yet it took only five minutes for some of the most knowledgeable wrestling crowd in the world to acclaim him their new hero. Here is the remarkable Madison Square Garden debut of Gino Hernandez!

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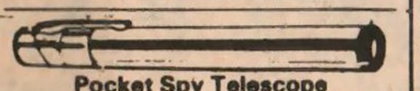

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Powerful, yet fits pocket like pen. Magnifies several times original size. Brings distant objects closer. Attractive finish.

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Roars with Laughter! Happy, hilarious joke, gift or surprise Battery operated. Lasts indefinitely.

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☐ 9527. Rotating Police Light ... $7.95

Foam Lighter

Looks harmless enough ...until they try to use it to light up. What happens next is unbelievable! Special gimmicked lighter erupts like a volcano, shooting & gushing foam several feet into the air. Creates shower of fun & laughs. Complete with "ammo" for about 20 "blasts." Water soluable. Won't stain. Additional refills available.

2059. Volcano Lighter $5.95

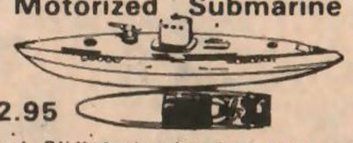
2060. Refill $2.95

Rugged Military Style Knife

Similar to knives used by Special Forces. Designed for toughest jobs. Use as knife, saw, hammer, hatchet, fish scaler. 5" tempered steel blade. Razor sharp. Back of blade has sharp saw teeth. Laminated leather handle for positive grip. Stitched & riveted genuine leather sheath with leg ties. Sharpening stone included.

8420. Commando Knife $10.95

Motorized Submarine



$2.95

Sturdy 7½" plastic submarine cuts through water powered by battery operated heavy-duty underwater motor. Runs on pen-cell battery. 5" motor is waterproof sealed, with adjustable rubber & built-in switch

☐ 2992. Submarine $2.95

GIANT BALLOONS

Weather balloon made of neoprene rubber. Do entertaining stunts, advertising effects, science fun, etc. 24 ft. around. Can be seen for miles

☐ 3010. 8 Ft. Balloon $5.95

ELECTRONIC LIE & LOVE DETECTOR

USEFUL & FUN GREAT GIFT!

Registers emotions, feelings, reactions. Test lovers, friends, relatives for lies, compatability. Great for party fun, scientific, psychological experiments. Works similar to expensive polygraph lie detector, but now available in low-priced transistorized pocket model. Easy to use. Hand-held electrodes. Easy-read dial. Complete instructions. About 4"x3". Operates on standard battery (not incl.). In attractive gift box.

☐ 9108. Lie/Love Tester $5.95

Joke Gum

Pucker Gum. Putrid.

☐ 2738. Pkg. of 5 .. 69¢

Red Hot Gum. Blazing.

☐ 2724. Pkg. of 5 .. 69¢

Garlic Gum. Awful.

☐ 2735. Pkg. of 5 .. 69¢

BLEEDING SKULL CANDLE

Most chilling horror effect we've seen in years. When lighted brilliant red "blood" oozes over the forehead & down the face. Great for haunted houses, parties, room decoration. About 4½" tall.

3072. Skull Candle $2.49

LEATHER BULL WHIP

LOUD - cracks like shot-gun blast. Used by trainers, cowboys. 4-ply. Hand made. Loop handle.

6762. 6 ft. $3.95 .... 6761. 8 ft. $4.95

MIDGET CAMERA $1.95

Guaranteed To Take Pictures! Black & White or Color! Uses standard 127 film. **Takes 16 wallet size or 3½ x 5" shots per roll.** Get developed anywhere or develop yourself. Camera is approx. size of cigarette pack. 3-1/2 x 3 x 2". Weighs less than 2 oz. For surprise, regular or candid pictures. Heavy-duty plastic construction. With eye-level view finder. Single action shutter with lens.

K4906. Midget Camera $1.95

K4907. Black/white 127 film, roll .. $1.65

Magnet Lifts 100 Pounds!

Lifts up to 100 Pounds SOLID STEEL! Tested & proven on steel block. GO TREASURE HUNTING. Do amazing stunts. 1001 uses. Pocket size.

☐ 4005. Lifts 50 lbs. $4.25

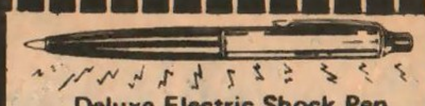
☐ 4055. Lifts 100 lbs. $6.25

$3.95

Motorized Flying Jet

Authentic replica of Phantom Jet Fighter really flies. Amazing speed. Hangs from ceiling by means of included self-stick mount & several feet of near invisible line. Ready-to-fly except for standard batteries (not incl.). On-off switch. 7½" long.

2083. Jet Fighter $3.95



Deluxe Electric Shock Pen

When they borrow your expensive looking ball point pen it causes the sparks to fly. They push the button and THEY GET ZAPPED! The looks and feel of finest pen on market. Wear in pocket or leave on desk, ready for your next "victim." Never fails. Teaches "snitchers" a lesson. Expertly made by West German craftsmen. Deluxe in looks & results. With replaceable battery inside.

2965. Shocking Pen $14.95

Automatic Fly Zapper

Faster than a speeding swatter! More powerful than the leading spray! Just pull the trigger & zap the low down critter. 3½" hard hitting mesh missle attached to spring activated shooter with a line so you can retrieve it and go hunting again.

☐ 6294. Fly Zapper .. $3.95

Black Eye Joke

"Will ya look at this!" They look & look, while it blackens their eye (they don't know it!)

2972. Black Eye Joke $1.95

No-Hands Binocular Glasses

Worn like regular glasses, but gives you magnified, close-up look of field glasses. Follows the action when you do, yet so lightweight & convenient you'll soon forget you're wearing them! Easy-turn, adjustable focus lets you vary lens distance, with 10 possible positions.

9395. Bino-Glasses $2.95

Portable Electric Fan

$1.79

Keep cool wherever you go. Handy pocket size. Powerful. Use standard battery.

6865. Pocket Fan $1.79

"Smoke" From Your Fingertips 99¢

Hundreds of magic or joke uses. Hands shown to be empty, then suddenly smoke appears from fingertips! Do over & over. No sleight; no manipulation. Nothing is lit or burned. Invisible smoke-producing paste spreads on fingers.

3116. Finger Smoke ..... 99¢

GIANT SLIMY SNAKE

NEARLY 3 FEET LONG!

Realistic. Threatening glare. Slimy feel. Guaranteed big & especially scary.

3885. Giant Snake . $2.95

Prismatic Decals

Brilliant colors. Stick anywhere. With light diffracting prismatic background. Firebird is 7" wide. Snake is 3½" wide.

7908. Firebird $2.95

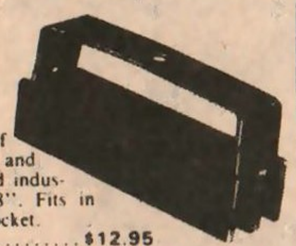
7909. American Snake $1.35

Big Bang Fun Snaps

Real Bang-Up Fun! Squeeze 'em! Toss 'em! Step on 'em! Gives BIG BANG! Amazingly loud, yet you can pop them between your fingers without harm. Box of 50. 2 for $2.75.

2051. Fun Snaps $1.49

175 LB. LIFT MAGNET



Powerful magnet weighs only 1 lb. but lifts up to 175 lbs! Convenient handle fits in palm of hand for easy carrying of magnet and loads. Terrific for sport, hobby and industrial uses. Only 1 x 1-1/4 x 4-3/8". Fits in tool box, work bench drawer, even pocket.

K4095. 175 lb. Magnet $12.95

X-RAY VISION

Greatest illusion of the century! Apparently see bones thru skin, see thru clothes, etc. Amaze and embarrass everyone! Regular size glasses with built-in optical illusion.

3762. XRAY Specs Only ... $1.85 per pair

Plug-In Revolving Automobile Safety Light

With Red, Blue & Amber Lenses

In case of emergency, this revolving safety signal light may be the best investment you've ever made. With 15 ft. cord that plugs right into the cigarette lighter of your car or boat for "take anywhere" convenience. Visible in day or night. Brilliant beam visible for nearly a mile. Slide switch selects rotating action or stationary beam. 3 1/4" suction base for sturdy attachment & quick mount & removal. Easy to change lens. 4 1/2" diameter 4 1/2" high. 12 volt.

K4047. Plug-In Safety Light $11.95

SPY "PEN" RADIO

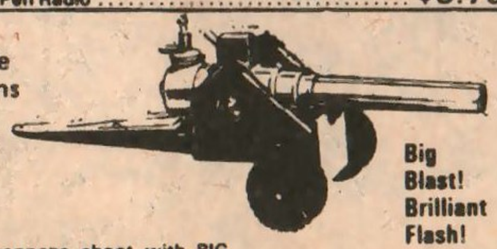
Real Working Radio Hidden in Pen Case!

Fits Into Your Pocket Like Pen!

Hear SPORTS, MUSIC, LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS in office, school, bed, etc. Slips into pocket like ordinary pen. Tiny earphone for listening. Full range tuner. Guaranteed to pull in several stations in your area, although reception will vary from place to place. No additional expense. NO BATTERIES NEEDED. Self-powered solid state circuit. Germanium diode type radio (pulls in radio waves from air). Ground wire included but not always necessary in most areas. Complete, ready-to-play. Money back if not delighted.

☐ 7052. Pen Radio $3.75

Carbide Cannons Really Shoot!



Big Blast! Brilliant Flash!

Carbide cannons shoot with BIG BOOM. Fine July 4th noisemaker, for celebrations, etc. NOT A TOY! Hundreds of shots for pennies. Uses carbide. Fast firing. Made of heavy cast iron, strongly built to withstand heavy use. Machined brass fittings. Accurately detailed. Practically indestructible. **Larger size produces bigger noise because of larger chamber.**

7385. Ammo. About 500 shots $3.95

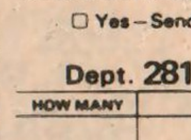
7383. Modern 9" Cannon. 2 Heavy-Duty Tractor Wheels $15.95

7384. World War I Field Cannon. 17" Cast Iron Wheels $24.95

7499. Modern 17" Cannon. 4 Tractor Wheels (shown) $26.95

7388. Modern 25" Cannon. 8 Tractor Wheels $33.95

Free 1981 Catalog 1600 Novelties



World Famous catalog of novelties, pranks, jokes, cloth patches, hobbies, scientific supplies, fun-makers, planes & boats, gadgets, time-savers, photo & optical goods, jewelry, disguises, music items, stamps, coins, puzzles, fortune tellers, radios, bikes & accessories, telescopes, banks, office & artist supplies, engines, motors, sports, books, models, magic, much more.

☐ Yes – Send Me Your Catalog. I have enclosed 10¢ postage (Canadian 50¢).

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SHIPPING & HANDLING $1.00

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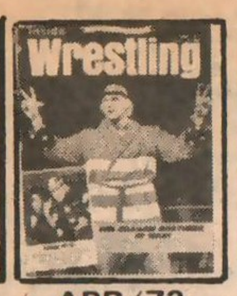
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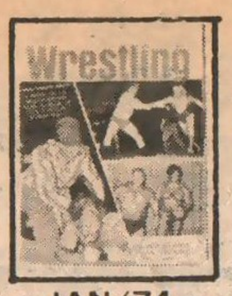
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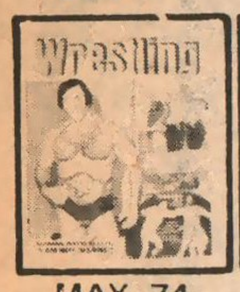
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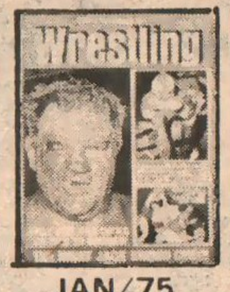
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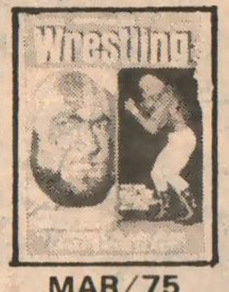
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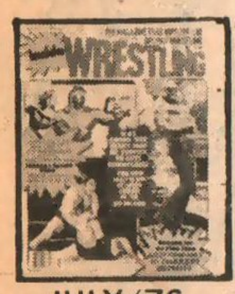
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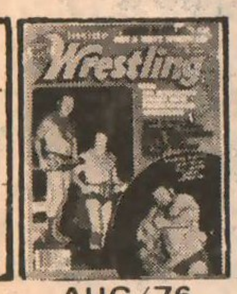
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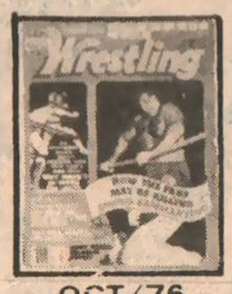
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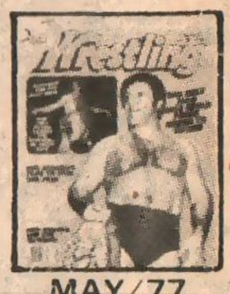
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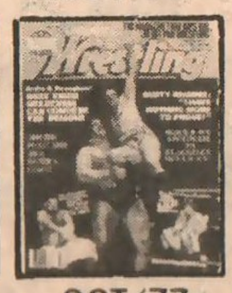
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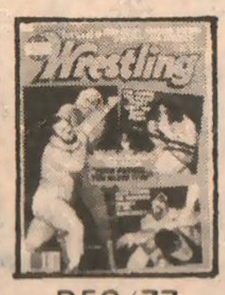
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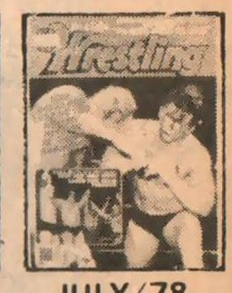
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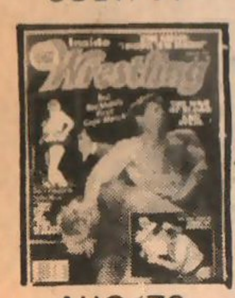
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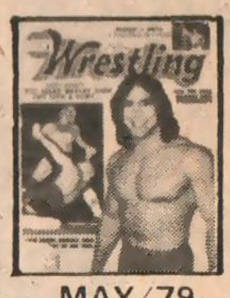
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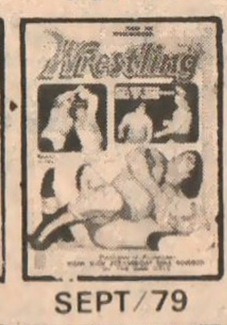
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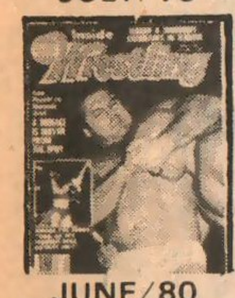
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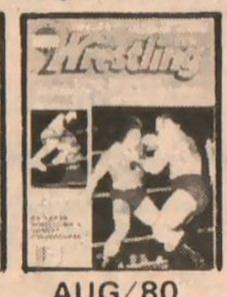
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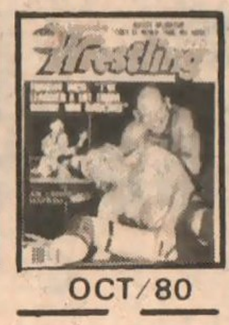
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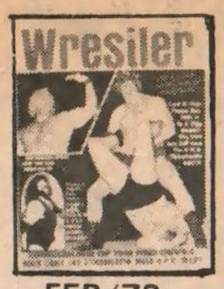
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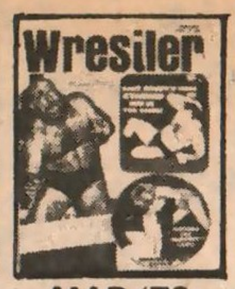
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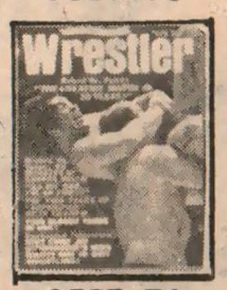
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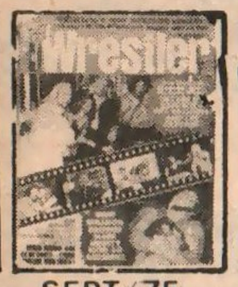
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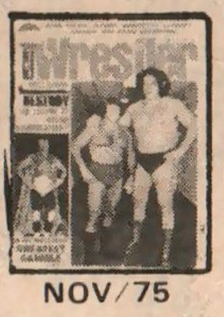
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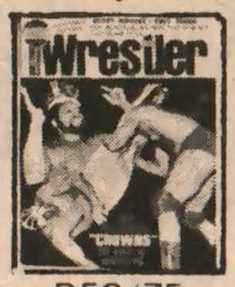
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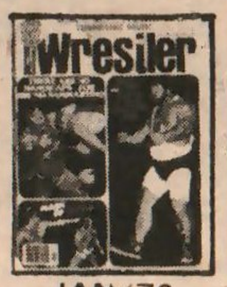
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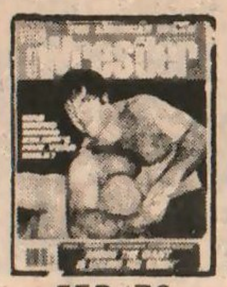
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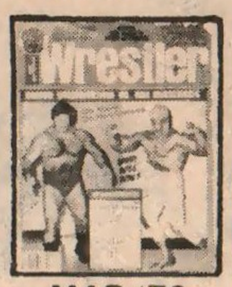
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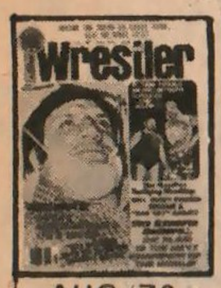
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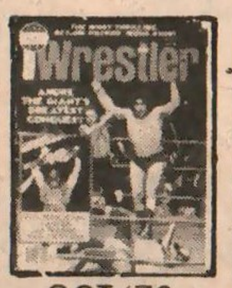
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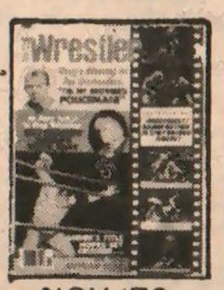
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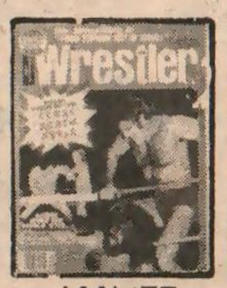
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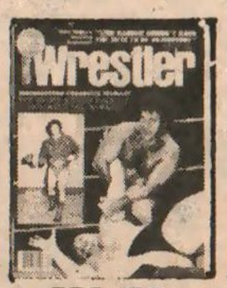
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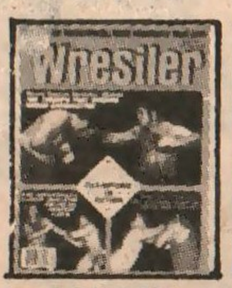
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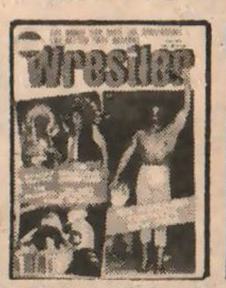
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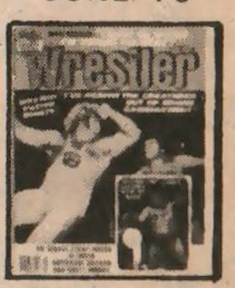
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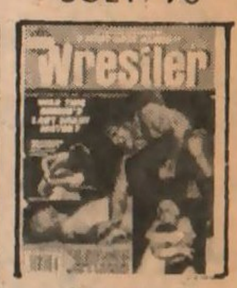
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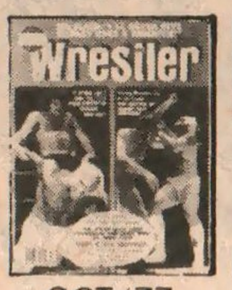
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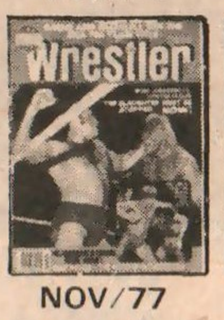
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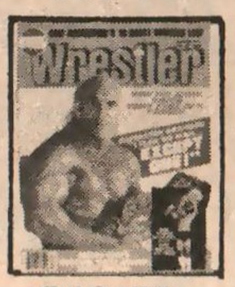
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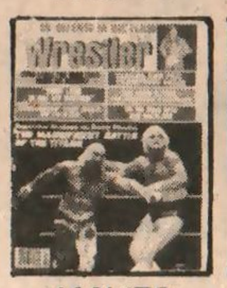
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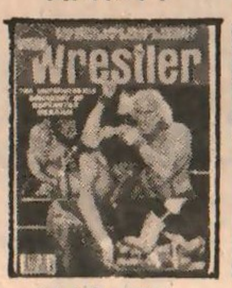
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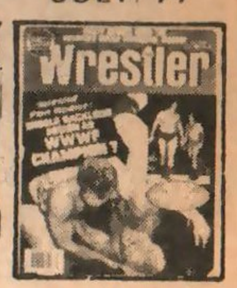
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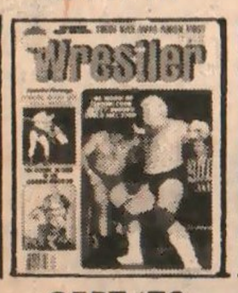
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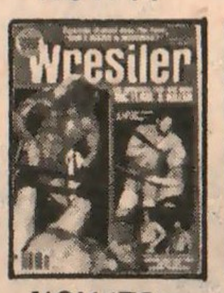
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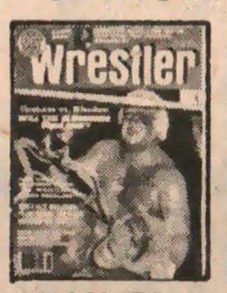
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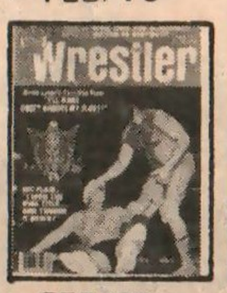
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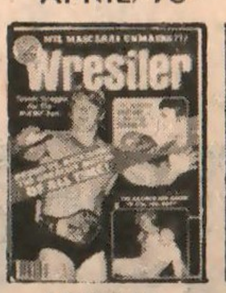
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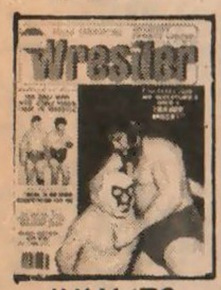
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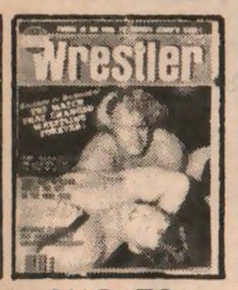
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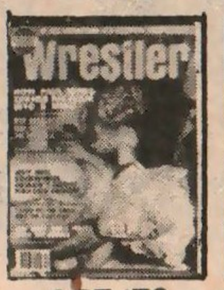
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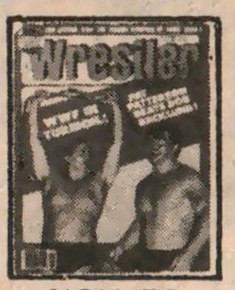
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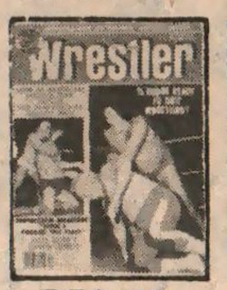
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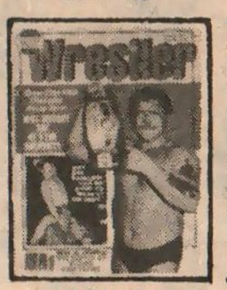
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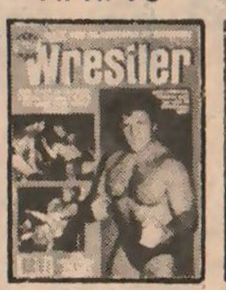
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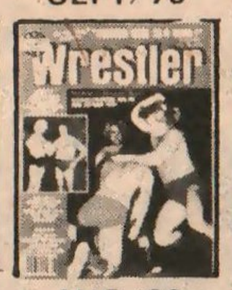
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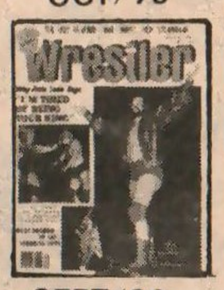
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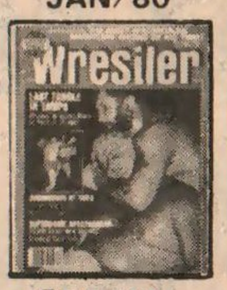
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Fate prevented Ken Patera from proving his claim he's the world's strongest man. Now, for the first time, the whole story of the "World's Strongest Man" contest can be told!

THE DOCTOR SHOOK his head and said for the third time, "Just remember, this brace doesn't work miracles. You still have a badly strained back. I don't have to remind you there isn't much medical science can do for a bum back."

Ken Patera nodded. "I take it you're telling me not to compete."

"That's what I'm saying. There's no law that says you have to be in 'The World's Strongest Man Contest.' The money isn't that good. You've been on television before, and you have nothing to prove. You're an Olympic weightlifter, a top professional wrestler, and one of the last people anyone

(Continued on page 64)

KEN PATERA— WORLD'S STRONGEST MAN!*

*"Look, in my own mind I am the world's strongest man. I finished third with a bum back. I was weakened and racked with pain. Had anybody else been in the agony I was, he would have been in a hospital bed, let alone competing!"

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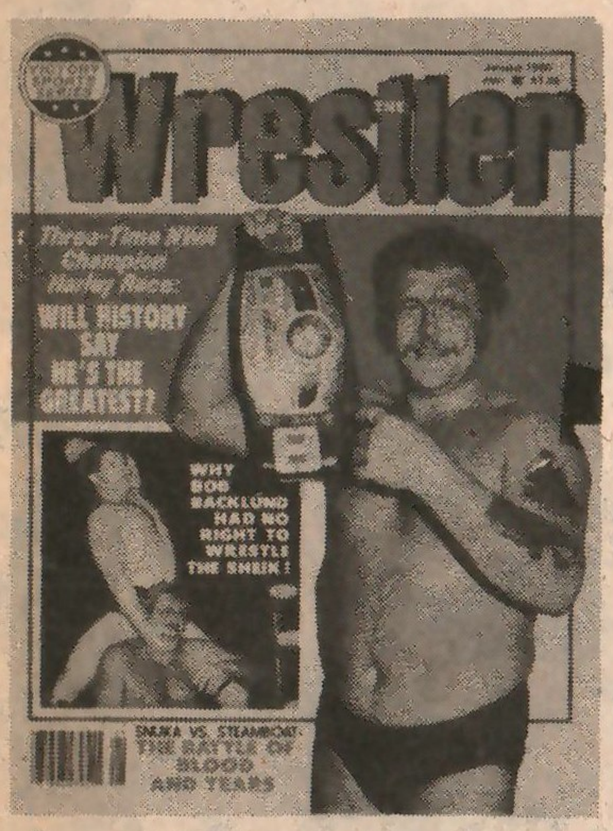

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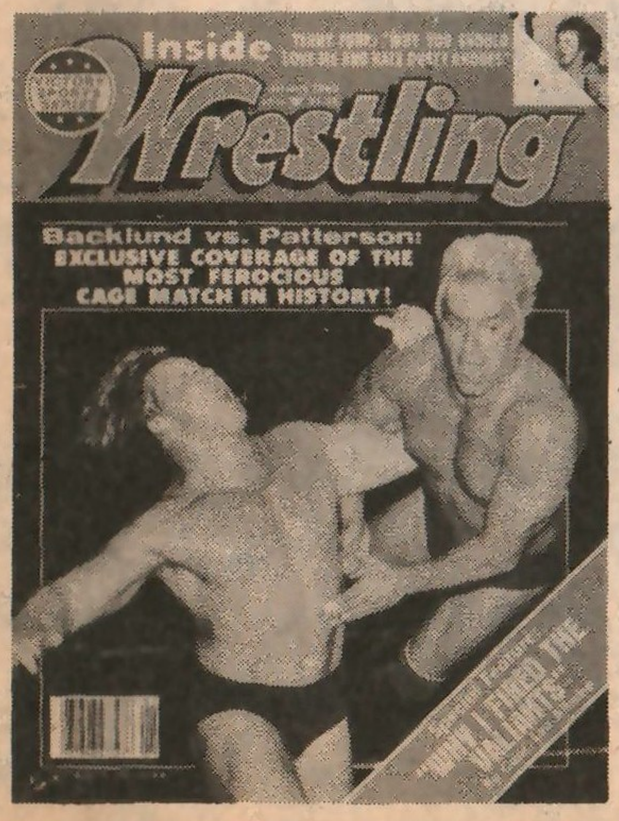

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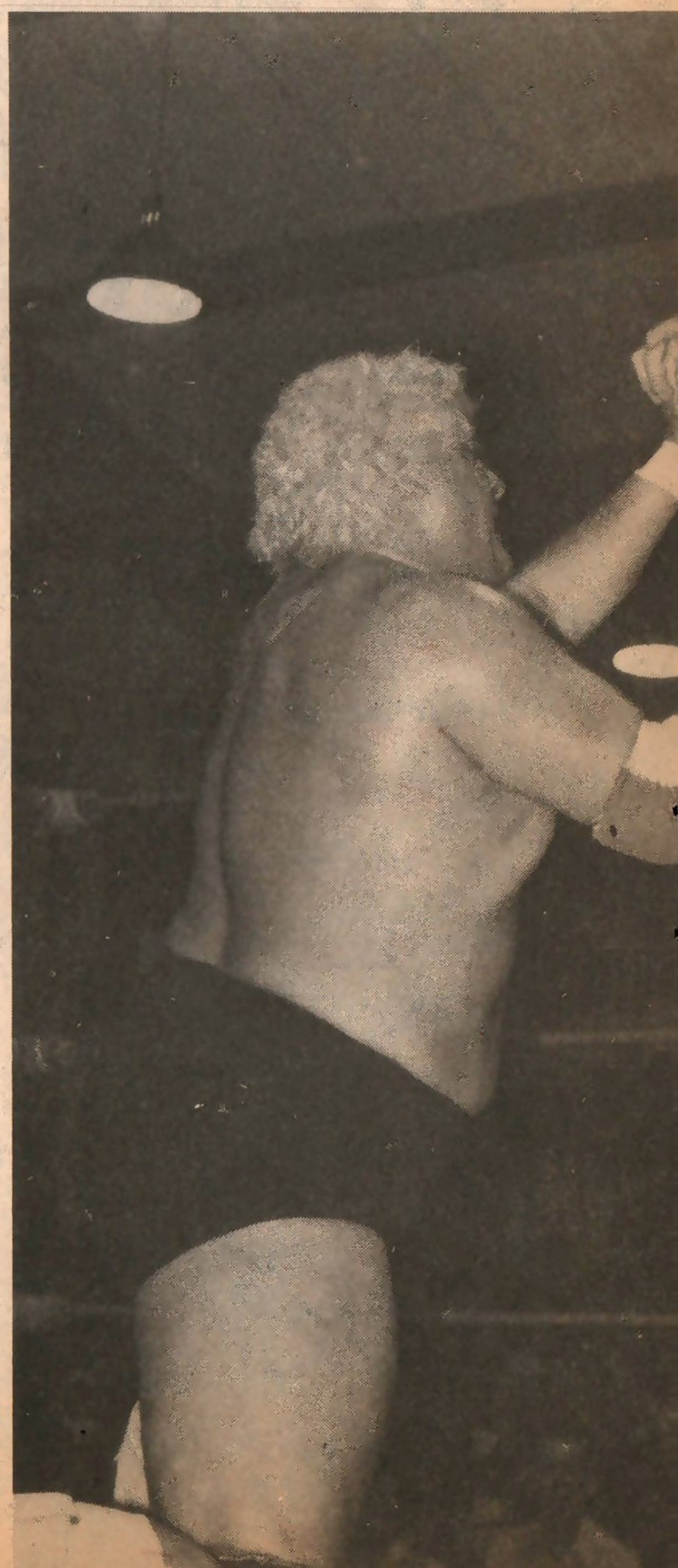
PHOTOS BY DON DELEON

STAN HANSEN: PORTRAIT OF A RUTHL

Stan Hansen displays his Georgia heavyweight championship belt. Hansen is at the peak of his career at this time.

Few men in wrestling history have rampaged through the sport as has Stan Hansen. Showing no mercy while displaying fearsome power, this ruthless grappler remains unchecked in his latest reign of terror. Can he be stopped?



The "American Dream," Dusty Rhodes is brought to his knees by Hansen. Dusty says Stan is one of the most vicious men he has faced since he began wrestling.

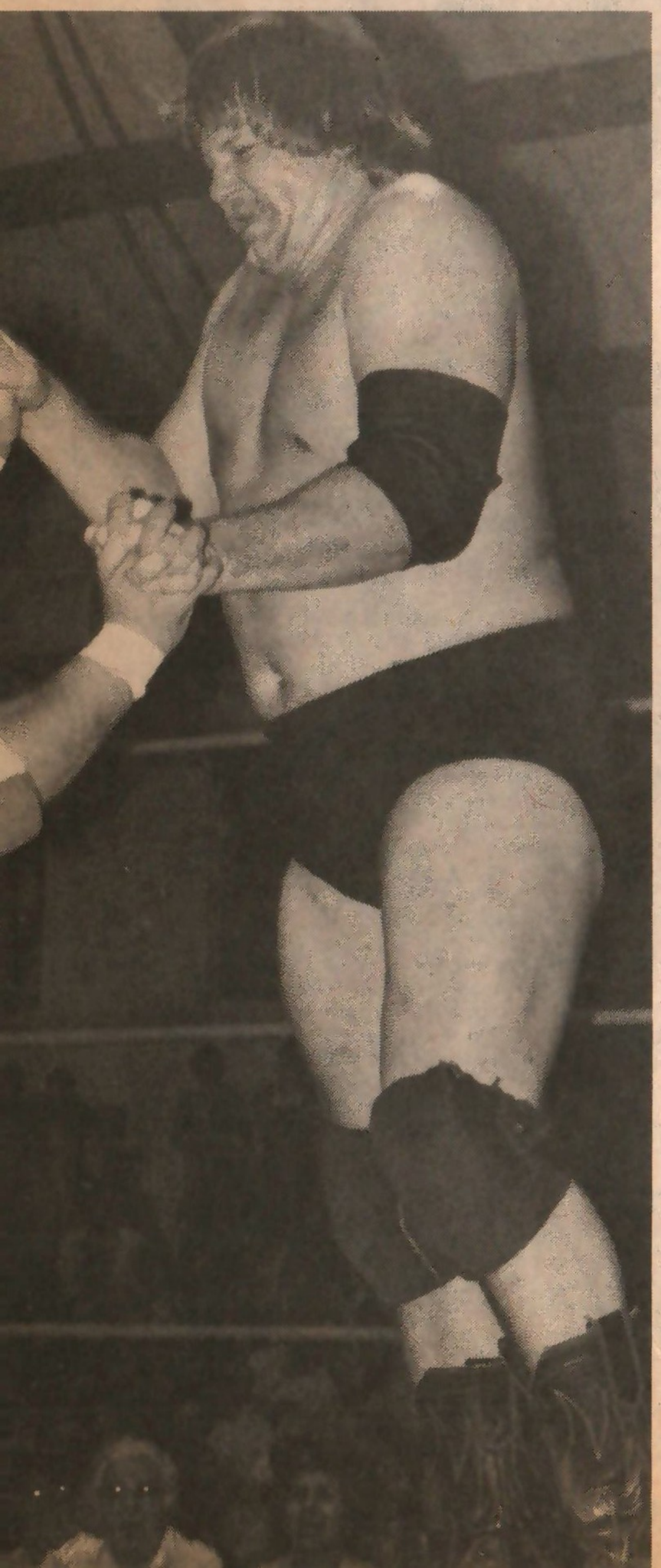
MR. WRESTLING. Mr. Wrestling II. Dusty Rhodes. Tony Atlas. The list of men who have been savaged by the ruthless cruelty of Stan Hansen fills the record books with numbing repetition.

A broken neck here. A ruptured blood vessel there. A long stay in the hospital then. All courtesy of Stan Hansen.

About the only distinguishing characteristic of Hansen, apart from his meanness, is the

The referee checks to see if Stan is choking Tony Atlas. Tony, a man who loves to use aerial tactics, was grounded by Hansen.

ESS MAN



surprising longevity he has enjoyed as Georgia Heavyweight Champion.

That belt has been among the most transient possessions in all of wrestling. Its champions pass by quickly, for some reason unable to retain the belt for any length of time. Yet Hansen has defied tradition with his long reign. His tactics are reprehensible to be sure, but his success is unquestioned.

What makes this barbaric relic of Attila the Hun's mongol hordes such an inviting challenge is the wide-spread belief amid the wrestling community that he is just a mediocre talent. Attendant with this belief is the element of revenge.

The brutal lariat move of Hansen, the same move which broke Bruno Sammarino's neck, has been used with crunching regularity on other grapplers. All have sworn vengeance.

None have attained it—yet.

WHY?

"Because I'm the meanest dude walking, that's why, baby," Hansen offered his own self-serving explanation. "Other guys can't stand the sight of blood and other guys aren't tough enough. I have the greatest technique anyone has ever had. It busted that dumb Sammartino's neck, didn't it? You think anyone can take my belt away? Name one."

Tony Atlas is the latest challenger. Or was the latest challenger. Again, Hansen managed to deny his opponent a rightful opportunity by instigating the worst possible rulebreaking tactics imaginable. One after the other. A chair thrown. A cheap kick in the groin. The threat that his "padded" arm, the vital component of his dreaded lariat move, might be "loaded" with steel.

"You think it's easy to be mean and think up these things I do?" Hansen cried. "I spend as much time perfecting my skills as those lame-brains like Mascaras and Backlund. Except I won't ever give in. I don't care how badly beaten my opponent is. I not only defeat them but teach them a lesson.

"Know what that lesson is? Don't Mess with Stan. Hey, that's a good line. I just thought that up. And they say Rhodes is creative. That fat blond bum."

Despite Hansen's boasts about his prowess, what appears to be a crucial reason for his success has less to do with anything he may do

(Continued on page 48)

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than 25 years. All of these extremely rare magazines are from the personal collection of Stanley Weston, owner of the world's largest collection of wrestling memorabilia. This is indeed a once in a lifetime opportunity for the true collector to finally own these highly treasured but until now elusive editions. Obviously, the supplies of these issues is very limited, and they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. It is for that reason we urge you to list substitute choices when you order. This will avoid time wasted writing back and forth should a particular issue be sold out. The prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the amount of available copies. For fastest service, payment should be made by money order or certified check. While cash will be accepted, we cannot assume responsibility when it is sent through the mails. All sales are final and no exchanges will be made.

BOXING & WRESTLING

After five issues, WRESTLING magazine changed its name to BOXING & WRESTLING. Continuing its high standard in wrestling, the addition of boxing stories made it one of the most popular sports magazines of the '50s. Some of the back issues listed in this ad can be obtained now by the general public for the first time in more than 25 years. As you would expect, supplies are very, very limited.

DECEMBER 1951 ***Boxing***—Maxim Beats Sailor Murphy, Gavilan Beats Billy Graham, Jim Corbett, Knockout Artists, Best Prospects, New Champion Randy Turpin, Upsets, Jersey Joe Walcott, Ratings, Marciano Challenges Walcott, Sandy Saddler (Life Story), Tex Rickard, Famous Fights of the Past, Fights of the Month
Wrestling—Verne Gagne, Ratings, TV Announcer Dennis James, Sandor Szabo, Matches of the Month, Pet Peeve, Sammy Berg, Mae Weston **$25**

JANUARY 1952 ***Boxing***—Pep vs. Saddler, Gans vs. Kid Lavigne, Robinson vs. Turpin, Mickey Walker, Tricksters, Tony Janiro, Barney Ross's Record, Tex Rickard, Roland LaStarza, Leonard vs. Kilbane, Rocky Marciano, Ratings, Knockouts
Wrestling—Yvon Robert, Wrestling Whirl, Sky Hi Lee, Matches of the Month, Pacific Coast Championship, George Hackenschmidt, Indian Wrestlers, Ruffy Silverstein, Ratings, Londos vs. Shikat **$25**

FEBRUARY 1952 ***Boxing***—Fights of the Month, Trouble with Boxing, Young Prospects, Tony Canzoneri, Bob Fitzsimmons, Rocky Graziano, Unusual Incidents, Predictions for 1952, Willie Lewis vs. Sailor Burke, Ratings (Marciano Fighter of Month), Tex Rickard Story
Wrestling—Dirty Duseks, Cora Combs, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of Month, The Original Terrible Turk, How to Improve Wrestling, Ratings **$25**

JUNE 1952 ***Boxing***—Fights of the Month, Gil Turner, Max Schmeling, Jack Johnson, Ratings, Stillman's Gym, Chico Vejar, Flyweights and Bantamweights, Tex Rickard Story, Paddy DeMarco, Max Baer's Record
Wrestling—Lord Carlton, Ratings, Mars Bennett, Human Sides, Tony Lanza, Wrestling Whirl, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, Matches of Month, San Francisco Promoter Joe Malcewicz **$25**

JULY 1952 ***Boxing***—Fights of the Month, Joe Baksi, Jess Willard, Manager Al Weill, Abe Attell, Danny Nardico, Fighters Are Human, Tex Rickard Story, Famous Filipinos, Norman Hayes, Ratings
Wrestling—Lord Blears, My Toughest Bouts by Lou Thesz, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of Month, Texas Rasslin', Ratings, Ivan Kamiroff, It Began With Milo, Good Old Days **$25**

AUGUST 1952 ***Boxing***—Highlights, Paddy Young, Sammy Mandell, Trainer Doc Bagler, Jack Dempsey, Keeny Teran and Gil Cadilli, Tex Rickard Story, Lew Tendler, TV From Miami, From Knockdown to Victory, Ratings
Wrestling—Dirty Dick Raines, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, How Girl Wrestlers Keep Fit, Ratings, Adrian Baillargeon, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of Month, Mighty Atlas **$25**

SEPTEMBER 1952 ***Boxing***—Highlights, Fighting Italians, George Arauji, Pancho Villa, Trainer Charlie Goldman, Willie Troy, Ratings, Boxing Confidential, Gene Tunney, Jackie Fields
Wrestling—Bobby Managoff, Lou Thesz's Record, Ratings, Matches of Month, Tim Geohagen, William Muldoon, Wrestling Whirl **$25**

OCTOBER 1952 ***Boxing***—Highlights (Walcott vs. Charles; Carter loses to Salas, etc.), Lauro Salas, Stanley Ketchel, Irish Champions, Chuck Davey, Max Schmeling, Ratings, Joe Miceli, Strange Experiences, Willie Pep tells about his loss to Sandy Saddler, Boxing Medicine Man Dr. Nardiello
Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Their Hardest Battles, Matches of Month, Ray Gunkel, Tough Turks, Wrestling Whirl, Ratings, Record of Verne Gagne **$25**

APRIL 1953 ***Boxing***—Fighting Talk, Fights in Review (Billy Graham vs. Joey Giardello; Tiger Jones vs. Johnny Bratton), Pat McMurtry, Billy Miske, Ezzard Charles, Undefeated Johnny Saxton, Fidel LaBarba, Luis Firpo, Archie Moore Wins Title at Age 36, Jimmy McLarnin, Jack Dillon
Wrestling—Marvin Mercer, Matches of Month, Record of Yukon Eric, Killer Kowalski vs. Yukon Eric, Man Mountain Dean, Ratings, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Promoter Al Mayer, Trading Holds **$30**

MAY 1953 ***Boxing***—Fighting Talk, Fights in Review (Danny Nardico upsets Jake LaMotta, Rocky Castellani beats Tiger Jones), Kid Gavilan kayoes Chuck Davey to retain crown, Roland LaStarza tops Rex Layne, The Dundee Brothers, Baltimore's Great Fighters, Saga of John Morrissey, Tommy Loughran, Ratings, Middleweight Muddle, Charlie White
Wrestling—Fred Curry, Elvira Snodgrass, Matches of Month, Great Togo, Ruffy Silverstein, Trading Holds, Record of Buddy Rogers, Ratings, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs **$30**

OCTOBER 1953 ***Boxing***—Fighting Talk, Fights of the Month, Dan Bucceroni, Promoter Lew Raymond, Arthur Persley, Light Heavyweight History, Best Heavyweight Bets, Jackie 'Kid' Berg upsets Tony Canzoneri, Floyd Patterson, Charlie 'Phil' Rosenberg, Your Boxing I.Q., Ratings
Wrestling—Leo Nomellini, Johnny Barend, Ratings, Record of Sonny Myers, Violet Viann, Matches of Month, Frank Gotch, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Trading Holds **$30**

DECEMBER 1954 ***Boxing***—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Matches of Month, Cisco Andrade, Ezzard Charles writes about Marciano, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Tony DeMarco, Jimmy Braddock, Maxie Rosenbloom's Life, Paul Andrews, Tony Galento vs. Lou Nova, Benny Leonard, Quiz, Dempsey vs. Fred Fulton, Quiz
Wrestling—Bob Orton, Matches of Month, Cowboy Carlson, Mars Bennett, California Champs, Al Costello, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Fan Clubs **$25**

FEBRUARY 1955 ***Boxing***—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Nino Valdez Says "I'll Beat Marciano," Billy Petrolle's Life, Carmen Basilio Challenges Johnny Saxton, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Lou Stillman, Jim Corbett vs. Joe Choynski, Jack Delany, Jack Johnson Compared to Modern Fighters, Why Black Fighters Are Tops, Quiz, Ratings, Jimmy McLarnin
Wrestling—Billy Varga, Ratings, Violet Viann, Verne Gagne, Speaks Out, Matches of Month, Sonny Myers, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, How To Start A Fan Club **$25**

MARCH 1955 ***Boxing***—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Kid Gavilan, Cisco Andrade, Eugene Criqui, Ratings, Writer Dan Parker, Best Heavyweight Of All, Charley Powell, Youg Griffo, Kid McCoy vs. Tomy Sharkey, Willie Ritchie, Quiz, Pedro Montanez
Wrestling—Gorgeous George, Matches of Month, Jack Witzig, Ike Eakins, Texas Tough Guys, Little Black Dynamite, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs **$25**

APRIL 1955 ***Boxing***—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Archie Moore Blasts Marciano, Robert Cohen, Joe Choynski's Life, Strike By Managers' Guild, 'Boardwalk' Billy Smith, Ad Wolgast vs. Joe Rivers, Fake Fights, St. Nicks Arena, TV Fights of 1954, Paul Berlenbach, Quiz, Ratings **$25**

MAY 1955 ***Boxing***—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Jimmy Carter, Trainer Whitey Bimstein's Secrets, Pancho Villa's Life, Frankie Ryff, Ray Robinson's Comeback, Les Darcy, Charley Norkus, Max Baer Kayoes Max Schmeling, Bob Fitzsimmons, Quiz, Ratings, Barney Ross
Wrestling—Primo Carnera, Roy McClarity, Matches of Month, Southwest Champs, Great Scott, Killer Kowalski Strength Secrets, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Gossip, Full Color Pin Up of Buddy Rogers **$20**

JUNE 1955 ***Boxing***—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Eduardo Lausse, Tony Canzoneri's Life, Tiger Jones and Bobby Jones, How Marciano is Managed, Lou Brouillard's Life, Bob Baker, Matchmaker Teddy Brenner, Ten Deadliest Punches, Tommy Ryan vs. Sandow, Ruby Goldstein, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Yukon Eric, Pacific Coast Powerhouses, Billy Goelz, Wrestling Whirl, Manuel Cortez, Matches of Month, Bob Geigel, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Billy Varga **$25**

JULY 1955 ***Boxing***—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Rocky Marciano Crushes Don Cockell, Fights of Month, Chico Vejar, Tony Canzoneri's Life (conclusion), Carmen Basilio describes his war with Tony DeMarco, Fight Nite At St. Nicks, Jimmy Soo, Fantasy Fight with Joe Walcott, Ludwig Lightburn, Benny Leonard vs. Ever Hammer, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—'Tiger' Joe Marsh, Matches of Month, Timmy Geohagen, TV Stars, Yukon Eric Tells How To Build Muscles, Was Henri DeGlane a Nazi? Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Frankie Talaber **$25**

AUGUST 1955 ***Boxing***—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Floyd Patterson, Tony DeMarco, Boxing's Mouthpiece, Mickey Walker, Joe Rowan, Fritzie Zivic batters Henry Armstrong, Fighting Irish, Joey Lopes, Sam Langford vs. Stanley Ketchel, Quiz, Luis Firpo, Ratings
Wrestling—'Legs' Langevin, Yukon Eric, Matches of Month, Promoter Eddie Quinn, Most Dangerous Holds, Joe Cassius, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Full Color Pin Up Of Leo Nomellini **$25**

SEPTEMBER 1955 ***Boxing***—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Rocky Castellani, Promoter Jim Norris, Fight Afternoon, Rudy Garcia, Abe Attell, Billy Graham Quits, Terry McGovern vs. Pedler Palmer, Pat McMurtry, Al Singer, Willie Jackson, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Leo Nomelline, Do Black Wrestlers Get Fair Shake? Matches of Month, Crazy Kalmikoffs, Hans Schnabel, Wrestling Whirl, Al & Tiny Mills, Gossip, Wrestling Stinks! Full Color Pin Up of Big Bill Miller **$25**

OCTOBER 1955 ***Boxing***—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, The Real Marciano, Frankie Carbo, Carmen Basilio, John L. Sullivan vs. Charley Mitchell, Carmelo Costa, Jack Dempsey (Part 1), Paddy Young, Archie Moore, Joe Benjamin, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Hans Herman, Matches of Month, Strangler Lewis, One World's Title! Sky Hi Lee, Wrestling Whirl, Kamikaze Kinji, Hans Schmidt, Full Color Pin Up of Lord Blears **$25**

NOVEMBER 1955 ***Boxing***—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Marciano Kayoes Archie Moore, Fights of Month, Willie Pastrano, What Made Dempsey A Killer? 'Bud' Smith, Yama Bahama, Joe Gans vs. Rufe Turner, Strategy, Tony Puleo, Great Trainers, Ratings, Johnny Dundee, Johnny Kilbane, Quiz
Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Matches of Month, Don Arnold, Colorful Characters, Hindu Wrestlers, Chris Tolos, Malcolm Brenner, Full Color Pin Up of Pat O'Connor **$25**

JANUARY 1956 ***Boxing***—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Joey Giambra upsets Bobo Olson, Joe Lynch, Ray Drake, Mystery of Joe Walcott Solved, Training Camps, Jimmy Slattery, Chris Christensen, Bare Knuckle Brawl-Tom Johnson vs. Isaac Perrins, Petey

Sarron, Charley White, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Why Women Wrestle, Wrestling Whirl, Bill Fletcher, Ivan Padubny, Bearded Wrestlers, Matches of Month, Art Michalek, Gossip, Fan Clubs **$25**

FEBRUARY 1956 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Ralph Dupas, Young Otto, Willie Pep, Billy Conn, Nonpariel Dempsey vs. George LaBlanche, Joe Miceli, Boxing Lesson, I.B.C., Freddie Steele, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Pepper Gomez, June Byers vs. Babs Wingo, Matches of Month, French Angel, Karl Davis, Best Rookies, Lou Thesz, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs **$25**

MARCH 1956 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Chuck Spieser, Isaac Logart, Ratings, Luis Firpo's Life, Raton Macias, Jim Jeffries vs. Ji Corbett, Tiger Jones, Boxing Lesson, Review of 1955, Frankie Genaro, Quiz
Wrestling—Leo 'The Lion' Newman, Matches of Month, Doc Gallagher, Terrible Turk, Breast Cancer and Girl Wrestlers, Barefoot Wrestlers, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Wives of Wrestlers **$25**

APRIL 1956 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Carmen Basilio, Commissioner Helfand, Pete Herman, Regaining Titles, Bobby Boyd, Ace Hudkins' Life, George Dixon vs. Solly Smith, Joe Benjamin, Louis 'Kid' Kaplan, Quiz **$25**

MAY 1956 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, How Floyd Patterson Will Fight Marciano, Ray Robinson's Problems, Jackie 'Kid' Berg's Life, Yama Bahama, 'Kid' Lavigne, Combating TV, Sam Langford, Bob Murphy, Boxing Lesson, Carl Tremaine, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Rocca, Ada Ash, Matches of Month, Old Timers, Prince Maivia, Wrestling Whirl, Jerry Graham, Red Bastien, Gossip **$25**

JUNE 1956 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Cisco Andrade, Ludwig Lightburn, Remembering Chicago, Tony Zale's Life, Rory Calhoun, Quiz, Ratings, Tom Sharkey vs. Peter Maher by Jim Corbett, Aureilo Herrera, Dave Shade, Readers' Gripe
Wrestling—'Hard Boiled' Haggerty, Wrestling Whirl, John Pesek, Killer Kowalski, Texas Hot Spot, Powerhouses, Matches of Month, Fan Clubs, Gossip **$25**

JULY 1956 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Rocky Marciano, Max Schmeling's Life, Johnny Saxton, John L. Sullivan, Miguel Berrios, Larry Boardman, Quiz, Ratings, Joe Gans vs. 'Elbows' McFadden, Hollywood Legion Stadium, Ritchie Mitchell
Wrestling—Lord Blears, Matches of Month, Mexican Stars, Ramona TeSelle, Danno O'Mahoney, Wrestling Whirl, Roy Shire, TV Wrestling, Gossip **$25**

AUGUST 1956 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Tony DeMarco, Bob Fitzsimmons vs. Peter Maher, Cherif Hamia, John Holman, Jess Willard's Life, Bucking TV, Johnny Summerlin, Joe Choynski, Earl Mastro, Ratings, Bob Armstrong, Quiz, Gossip
Wrestling—George Drake, Wrestling Whirl, Chief Kit Fox, Matches of Month, Yvon Robert (Part 1), Why Wrestlers Bleach Their Hair, Bob Geigel, Gossip **$25**

SEPTEMBER 1956 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, 'Hurricane' Jackson, Will Marciano Fight Again? Mike McTigue, Bob Baker, Joey Giardello vs. Boxing Commission, Strange Anecdotes, Eddie Machen, Johnny Coulon, Paul Jorgensen, Terry McGovern vs. Oscar Gardner, Mike Gibbons, Ratings, Quiz, Letters
Wrestling—Buddy Rogers, Whipper Watson Wins Title From Thesz, Art of Needling, Yvon Roberts (Part 2), Wrestling Whirl, Dot Dotson, Matches of Month, Dick Nelson, Questions & Answers **$25**

OCTOBER 1956 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Willie Pastrano, Henry Armstrong's Life, Archie Moore, Jimmy McLarnin, Charley Joseph, Jim Jeffries, Jimmy Soo, Boxing Lesson, Kid Chocolate, Ratings, Quiz, Letters
Wrestling—Don Leo Jonathan, Wrestling Whirl, Fred Blassie, Billy Varga's Wife, Dangers of Wrestling, Yvon Robert (Part 3), Matches of Month, Letters, Fan Club **$25**

NOVEMBER 1956 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Tony DeMarco, Art Aragon, Mario D'Agata, Tony Anthony, King Levinsky's Life, Johnny Busso, Joe Louis vs. John Henry Lewis, Ken Overlin, Ratings, Lockport Jimmy Duffy, Kid McCoy vs. Jim Stewart, Quiz
Wrestling—Bobby Managoff, Around the Circuit, Slave Girl Moolah, Ratings, Matches of MOnth, Yvon Robert (Part 4), George Hubert, Fan Clubs, Letters **$25**

DECEMBER 1956 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Gene Fullmer, Jack Dempsey vs. Billy Miske, Harold Carter, Tex Class Fights, Jinx of College Fighters, Barney Ross vs. Jimmy McLarnin, Alex Miteff, Eddie 'Babe' Risko, Leonard Del Genio, Frank Battaglia, Ratings, Letters
Wrestling—John Paul Hennig, Wrestling Whirl, Rose Roman, Tag Team Situation, Matches of Month, Jim Wright, Bull Montana's Wife, Are Fans Crazy? Letters **$25**

JANUARY 1957 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Carmen Basilio, Fighter of Year, Mike Gibbons' Life, Predicting the Champs in 1957, Joe Brown, Greatest Lightweights of All Time, Stanley Ketchel, Boxing Lesson, Tommy Loughran beats Jim Braddock, Bill Brennan, Ratings, Quiz, Letters
Wrestling—Carl Engstrom, Greatest Champions of All Time, Bronko Nagurski, Matches of Month, Johnny Barend, Wrestling Whirl, Tito Carreon, Comparing Old and New, Letters **$30**

FEBRUARY 1957 *Boxing*—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Ray Robinson, Tom Sayers vs. John C. Heenan, Larry Boardman, Jim Jeffries Life in Pictures, Marciano and Manager Al Weill, Jim Corbett vs. Bob Fitzsimmons, Spider Webb, Jack Johnson, Joey Giardello, Pancho Villa vs. Jimmy Wilde, Gordon Wallace, 25 Years Ago, The Fighter, By Back London (Fiction), Quiz, Letters, Pal Moran, Ratings
Wrestling—Letters, Girl Wrestling History, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of Month **$25**

AUGUST 1957 *Boxing*—Stanley Weston Editorial, Letters, Carmen Basilio, TV Boxing Kayoed? Tom Molyneaux, Jimmy McLarnin kayoes Sid Terris, Willie Meehan Beats Jack Dempsey, Roland LaStarza, Can't Learn in Gym, Abe Attell, Billy Con's Life in Pictures, Walter Byars, Remember When, Eddie Machen, Mike McTigue Today, Ratings, Critics Talk
Wrestling—Yukon Eric, Matches of Month, Mr. Moto, Carlos Moreno, Fan Clubs **$35**

SEPTEMBER 1957 *Boxing*—Stanley Weston Editorial, Letters, Fights of Month, Tony Anthony, Benny Leonard Kayoed by Frank Fleming, Alphonse Halimi, Peter Jackson, Willie Pastrano, Gene Tunney, Billy Ryan, Triple Header; Harry Greg beats Mickey Walker, Dave Shade Kayoes Jimmy Slattery, Harry Wills Stops Charley Weinert, 'Knockout Brown,' Tom Sayers, Stanley Ketchel's Life in Pictures, Critics Talk, Ratings
Wrestling—Wrestlers Highest Paid, Killer Kowalski, Results of Month, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Letters, Fan Clubs, Facts Behind Wrestling Boom **$35**

DECEMBER 1957 *Boxing*—Stanley Weston Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Pat McMurty, Billy Soose, Henry Armstrong Beats Barney Ross, The Tiger & The Cub (Fiction), Marcel Cerdan's Life In Pictures, Sam Langford, Roy Harris, Graziano Beats Zale, Orlando Zulueta vs. Joe Brown, Yvon Durelle, Johnny Busso, Harold Gomes, Harold Johnson, Most Historic Ring, Ratings
Wrestling—Slave Girl Moolah, Belly Laughs, Results of Month, Wrestling Boom, Canadian Trail, 'Blackie' Guzman, Fan Clubs, Steve Stanlee **$25**

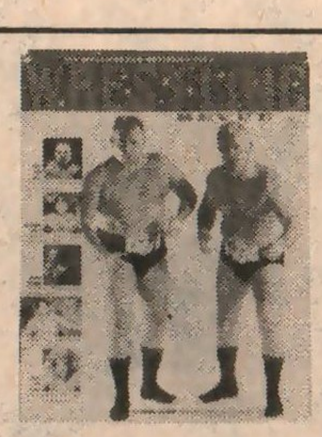
JANUARY 1958 *Boxing*—Stanley Weston Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Jimmy Braddock vs. Tommy Farr, Floyd Patterson, Johnny Kilbane, Mike O'Dowd, Chalky Wright, Carmen Basilio, Jimmy Wilde's Life, World's Ten Best Fighters, Quiz, Fighters Turned Actor, Bobing Lesson, Bare Knuckle Feature, Leach Cross Kayoes Young Otto, Letters, Remember When, Ratings
Wrestling—Ricki Starr, The Bruiser, Canadian Trail, Fan Clubs, Letters, Matches of Month **$25**

FEBRUARY 1958 *Boxing*—TV Jottings, Letters, Fights of Month, Louis vs. Marciano, Robinson vs. LaMotta, Walcott vs. Charles, Pep vs. Saddler, Basilio vs. DeMarco, Light Heavyweight History, Punch that Shocked World (Jack Sharkey Fouls Max Schmeling), Preview of 1958, Born Killer (Fiction), Britain's Boxing Booths, Ray Robinson's Career in Pictures, Picking Winners, Quiz, Gene Tunney-Georges Carpentier Feud, Al McCoy, Critics Talk
Wrestling—Mickey Gold, The Garibaldis, Smith Brothers, Gypsy Joe, The Gallaghers, How Women React to Wrestlers, Photo Highlights, Results of Month, Fan Clubs **$25**

APRIL 1958 *Boxing*—Stanley Weston Editorial, Letters, Fights of Month, Ratings, Carmen Basilio—Fighter of the Year, Complete Review of 1957 featuring Records, Results, Weights, Photos (Eight Pages), Bob Fitzsimmons, History of the Middleweights, Kid Chocolate Beats Fidel LaBarba, John L. Sullivan's Life, Barney Ross' Book, Remember When
Wrestling—Wrestlers in Movies, Sexiest Girl Wrestlers-Penny Banner and Barbara Baker, Predictions for 1958, Is The Champion Lou Thesz or Ed Carpentier? Sellout at the Garden, Photos of Month, Results of Month **$25**

WRESTLING REVUE

WRESTLING REVUE (1959-1964) is thought to be the finest series of wrestling magazines ever published. These beautiful editions (all edited and published by Stanley Weston) set a standard by which all of today's wrestling magazines are judged. The magnificent back issues in this ad, many of which contain spectacular full-color inserts, have been unavailable to the public for more than 10 years. Supplies of these collector's treasures are very limited.



Fall 1959
The first issue, edited and published by Stanley Weston, established a new style for wrestling magazines. This classic first issue, printed on heavy, coated paper, contains eight pages of full color pictures, plus front and back covers, also in dazzling full color. Fifteen years ago, this extremely rare issue was being sold for $50 per copy, the same price we are offering it to you now **$50**

FALL 1960	**$35**
SUMMER 1960	**$35**
WINTER 1960	**$30**
JUNE 1964	**$35**
AUGUST 1964	**$35**
OCTOBER 1964	**$30**
DECEMBER 1964	**$35**

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

SEND TO: T.V. SPORTS
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SEND ME THE BACK ISSUES I'VE LISTED BELOW
Please write in magazine name and date
For Example: "BOXING & WRESTLING Jan./1952"

1 _____ **4** _____
2 _____ **5** _____
3 _____ **6** _____

In The Event Any Of The Above Magazines Are Sold Out, I Will Accept The Substitute Issues Listed Below

1 _____ **3** _____
2 _____ **4** _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $ _____

Larry Zbyszko

TEAMMA COLLISIO

TWO MEN, both alike in dignity, both in the WWWF, where this sad story takes place. What will happen to them is still undetermined. What is happening to them now is where the interest lies.

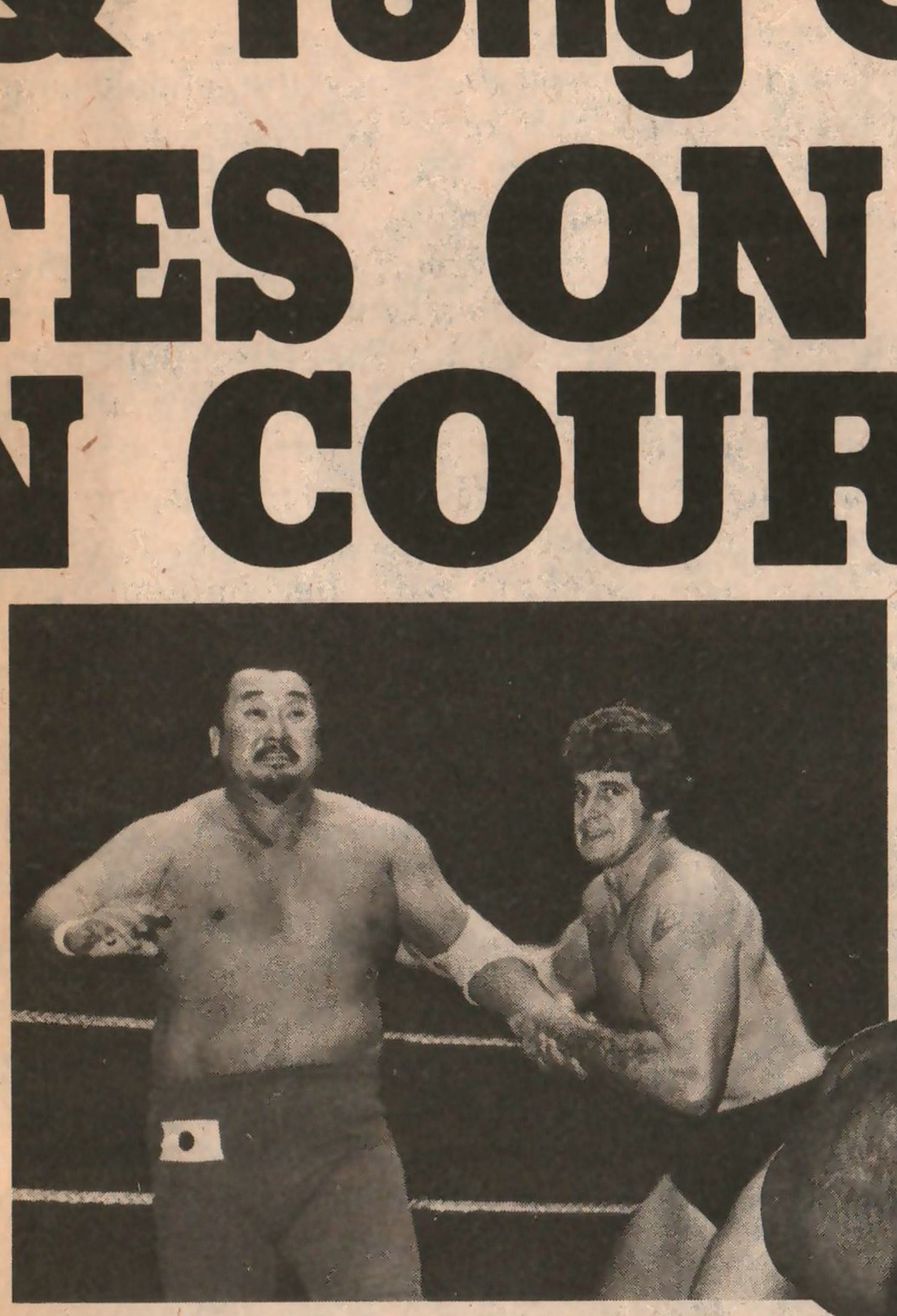
In many ways, Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko have had identical careers as professional wrestlers. Each has achieved a significant degree of success, though both have been in the sport for only a few years. Each in highly regarded by both the fans and the other wrestlers. Each man is believed to be among the next generation of superstars. Both men are excellent, talented, scientific wrestlers. And therein lies the problem.

No one was really surprised when Garea and Zbyszko

Zbyszko and Garea work well as a team (above) against a trapped Ken Patera. Yet, both Larry and Tony have their eyes on the same goal—the WWWF singles belt.

& Tony Garea

TES ON A N COURSE



Tony Garea sends Mr. Fuji for a ride (above). Still, many observers detect friction between Garea and Zbyszko.

decided to become a tag team. It seemed obvious they would work well together. And indeed they have. No one questions that. They are both talented young men who have been teaming effectively.

But each man is headed for the same goal—the championship of the WWWF. To say the least, this has become a problem

Friends, partners, and colleagues, Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko will do anything to aid each other. Yet, the WWWF title is larger than the both of them. Both want it more than life itself. Only one can get it. Can friendship survive ambition for glory?

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

for these two.

"To me," says Tony Garea, "Larry Zbyszko is the best tag team partner any man could have. He is open to new ideas and strategies. He is willing to be flexible in battle. He works well with other people.

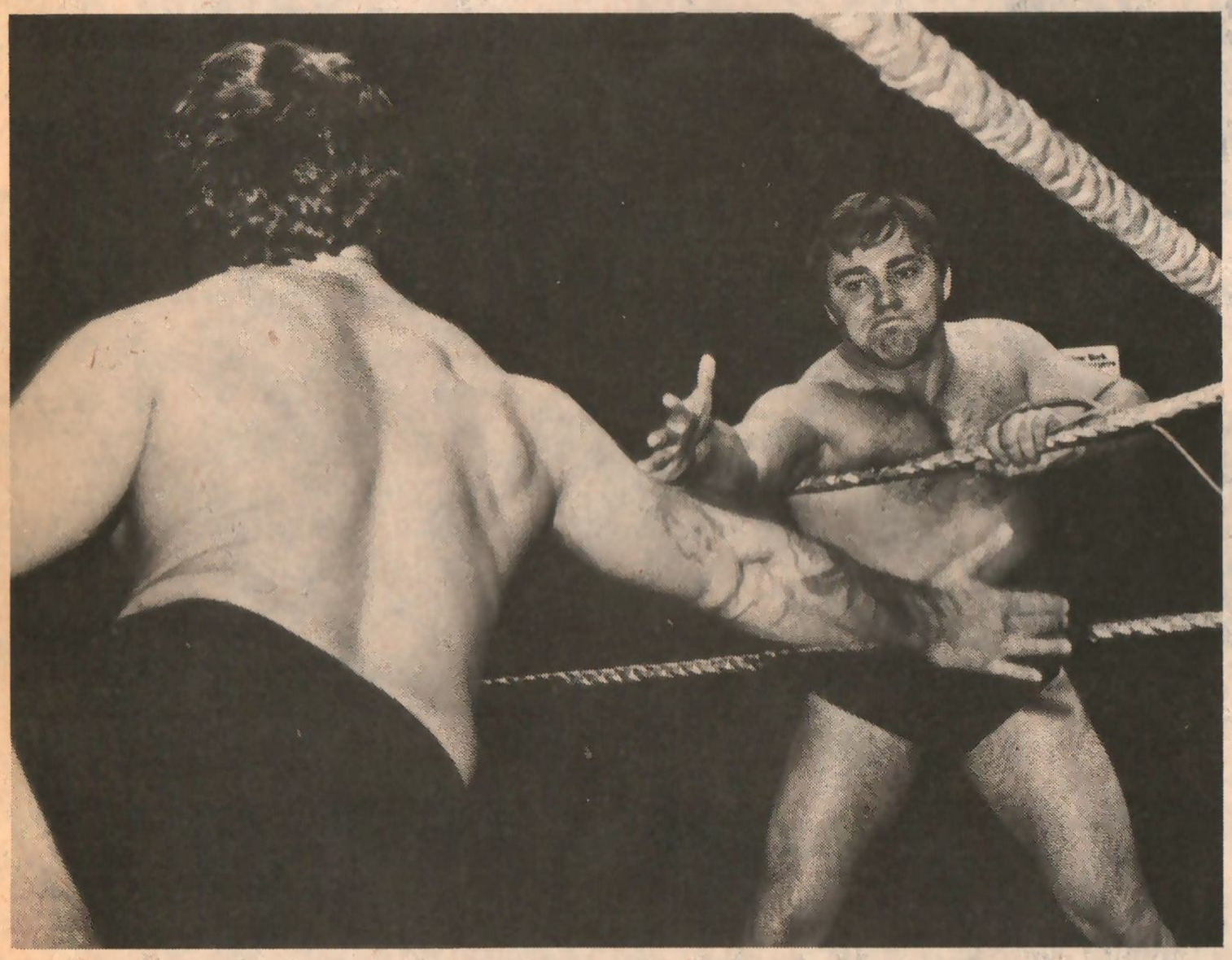
"Of course, the years he spent learning from Bruno Sammartino have added greatly to his talents. I am constantly awed by the things he does. Without question I can say Larry Zbyszko is the best partner I've ever had.

"But I know his ambitions go far beyond winning the WWWF tag team title. He wants the championship—the belt held by Superstar Graham. No one is denying he would be a good champion. He would probably follow in Sammartino's footsteps without missing a beat. Except he would be a pale imitation. Larry is very good, but he is not Bruno Sammartino.

"On the other hand, if I should become WWWF champion—which I would also like to do—I would bring a whole new style to the championship. I don't need to be like Bruno was. I am my own man."

As can be seen, Garea likes Larry, but he also resents him. The sarcasm at the end of his statement reflects this sentiment. Of course, Zbyszko has similar feelings towards Tony.

"Tony Garea is the best," Larry remarked. "He has it all—ability, adaptability, fan appeal. I couldn't have picked myself a better partner. Yes sir, Tony is at his best in tag team wrestling. No doubt about it.



Peak-action photo shows Zbyszko straining to reach Garea's hand for a tag. Most experts believe Larry and Tony could become one of the greatest tag teams in wrestling history—if they don't let their egos get in the way.

"I understand he wants the belt now held by Superstar Graham. I think that is a very noble ambition, and I applaud him for it. But I want it more. For a variety of personal reasons—some of which have to do with my friend and teacher, Bruno Sammartino—I want to take the belt from that swine.

"A man *really* has to want a belt to win it. While I know Tony would like to have the belt, I need to win it. I've dedicated my whole being to its pursuit. Tony can't say the same."

What strikes observers as most interesting is the civility with which these two partners are carrying out this "feud." It is as if they know they should hate each other, yet they respect each other too much to be even unfriendly.

However, it is also clear this situation will get worse long before it gets better. Both men want the WWWF title, and both men aim to get it. Both have been scheduled for title shots. If one man should win, this tag team will be immediately dissolved. There's no question about that.

Even now, the private battle between these two young men has become apparent publicly. Occasionally, an observer can see a flash of anger pass between the two men. They do not speak to each other much unless they have to. Their training sessions together have been less frequent over the past two weeks. There is a time bomb here just waiting to explode. People have started to learn to stay away.

Watch these two. There could be very serious trouble ahead. The polite sarcasm could give way to more violent problems. These two could end up destroying each other in their attempt to stop Superstar Graham. They could do major harm to the sport in their efforts to save it.

It would be nice to say there is some solution ahead to their troubles. But there isn't. Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko are on a collision course. This fine tag team could be the source of the most serious problems the WWWF has had to face in many years.

The outlook is bleak. These two men, both alike in so many ways, have set the scene for trouble. And all we can do is sit back and watch. □

Andre the Giant, the man who is wrestling's only undefeated superstar, is frustrated because Ric Flair will not sign to wrestle him for a second match.

For every athlete, there is the opponent who pushes him to the limits, forces him to be as great as possible. For Andre the Giant, that foe is Ric Flair. Before Andre can be champion, he must conquer Flair!

WHY RIC FLAIR HOLDS THE KEY TO ANDRE'S TITLE HOPES

RIC FLAIR WAS feeling quite satisfied, thank you. He was rather pleased with himself. In fact, it would have been downright difficult to wipe the silly grin from his face.

"Andre the Giant is my stooge now," he gloated. "He is at my total mercy, and I like it. Damnit, it feels good to know that big goon is afraid of yours truly."

What?

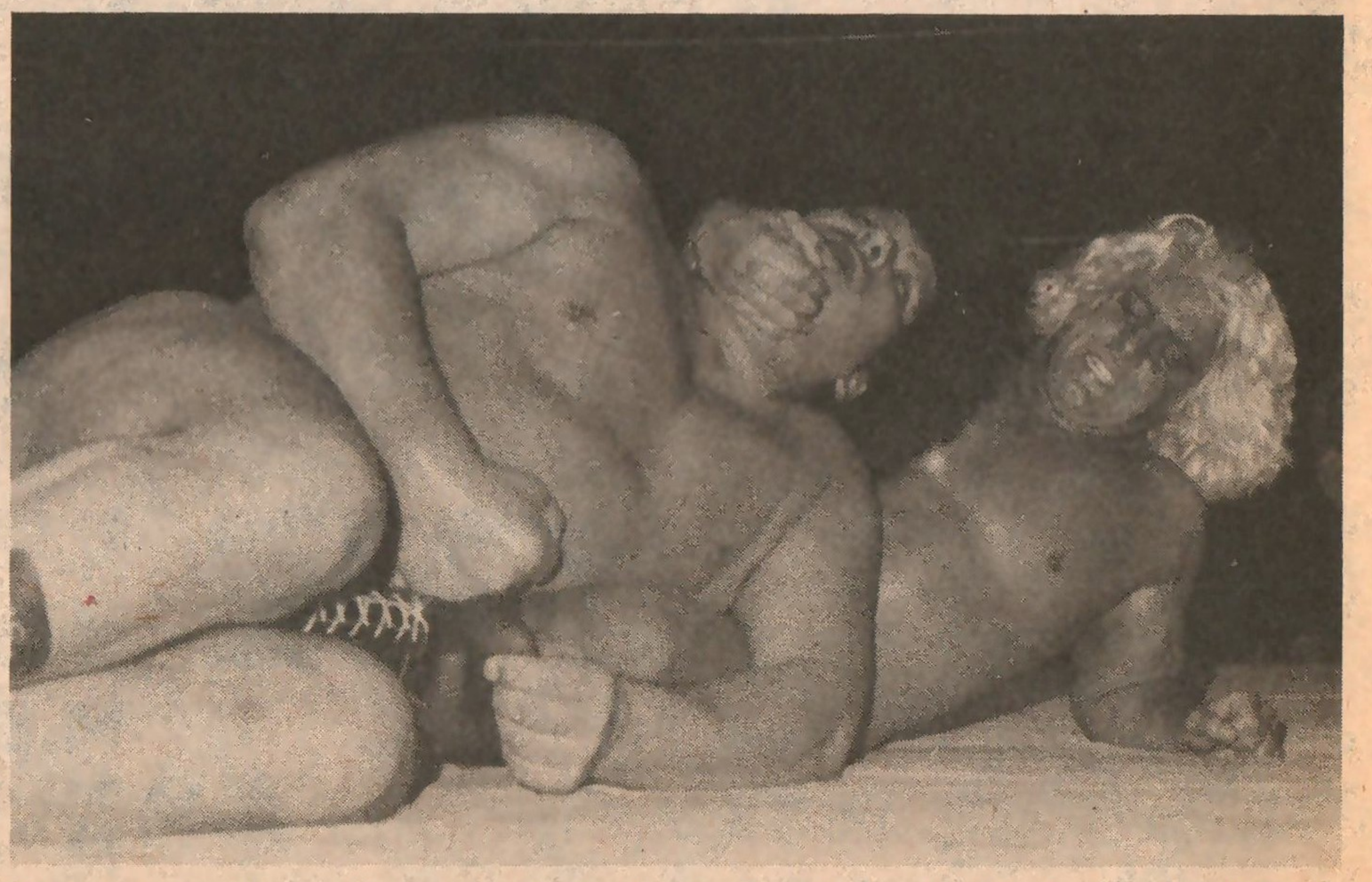
How could a man like Andre the Giant ever be afraid of Ric Flair? A man who has done as much and defeated as many men as Andre has should fear no man. What was Flair talking about?

For years, Andre the Giant has been searching for the ultimate test of his abilities. He has sought to wrestle the one man who would force him to use his

During their first match, Andre comes flying down with all his weight with Flair's leg as his target.

talents to the fullest. One man, Ric Flair, fit the bill. To Andre, Flair is a challenge of the highest magnitude. Due to his inherent ruthlessness, Ric represents everything Andre must defeat to prove himself as a wrestler.

The search for just such an opponent has taken Andre all over the world. It is why he has never refused any challenge; each man could be the one to provide that ultimate test. Yet each man, in some way, proved to have a weakness which Andre could use to his own advantage. Each man, while providing a challenge, did not provide the greatest one. Then Ric Flair issued his challenge, and Andre realized that he was faced with



As Andre tries to stay in charge, Flair grabs the Giant's chin and begins to force it back. Frustrated because he can do nothing with Andre, Flair will rake Andre's eyes and force Andre to let up his attack for a moment.

the test he had sought.

Why had Andre searched so long for such a challenge? The reasons are as complex as the man himself. Basically, Andre felt a need to use all his talents at once, against one man. He needed to prove that his career has had a meaning. A triumph over a man like Ric Flair would be a personal moral victory. It meant more than just another "win" in a record book.

However, this whole personal problem becomes more complex when taken in context. Andre is at a point in his career where he has become interested in winning a world championship. But he knows he cannot enter title competition again until he has finished with Flair's challenge. Ric knows this. That is why he gloats.

"That big fool can't do a thing right now," boasts Flair, "because he has to wrestle me again. And I'm not sure if I want to do battle with that glandular disaster area. Maybe I'll just let him suffer for a while. It should do him some good.

"He says he wants to go for a title after he beats me. That makes me laugh. First of all, what makes him think he's going to beat me? And what makes him think he could ever qualify for a title shot? He doesn't have what it takes to be champion. He never will, at least not in this lifetime."

Understandably, Andre is not at all pleased with Flair's attitude. He wants to wrestle Ric again. The first time they battled, the victory Andre gained was not the clear-cut one he wanted. To Andre, Ric Flair represents the total rulebreaker. The young man has no weakness Andre can exploit in battle. Flair does not lose control of himself during a match; he is totally aware of every move he makes and every rule he breaks. Andre has a difficult time combating an opponent so totally in control of himself, especially when that man is breaking rules.

"I need to wrestle Ric Flair," says Andre. "I don't like the man. His boasting and his bravado have no place in wrestling. But damn, he knows what he is doing when he gets into the ring! He may be a rulebreaker, but he is a good rulebreaker. He knows exactly what he is doing, which truly makes him the cruelest man of all.

"He is the ultimate challenge I need. When I wrestled him, for a few moments, I felt all my senses come alive. I felt I was using every muscle in my body. It was unlike any feeling I had ever had before. And I was winning! I learned that I could face my most important test and win. I need to do that again. I need to wrestle Ric Flair.

"But Ric Flair is a cruel devil. He is mentally torturing me by not giving me a rematch immediately. I have to move on, but I have to wrestle Ric Flair

(Continued on page 52)

Andre sends Flair flying (above). He locks up Flair's arm (below) in this, one of his toughest matches.

THE JOYLESS TRIUMPH OF

THEIR HANDS NERVOUSLY fingering their uncovered stomachs, Jim and John Valiant snorted angrily to the crowd of reporters. Without a word, but with suffocating rage, they grabbed a blank piece of paper, each taking one end of it in their massive paws. Eyes fixed angrily on one another, they pulled the paper apart and threw the pieces to the ground.

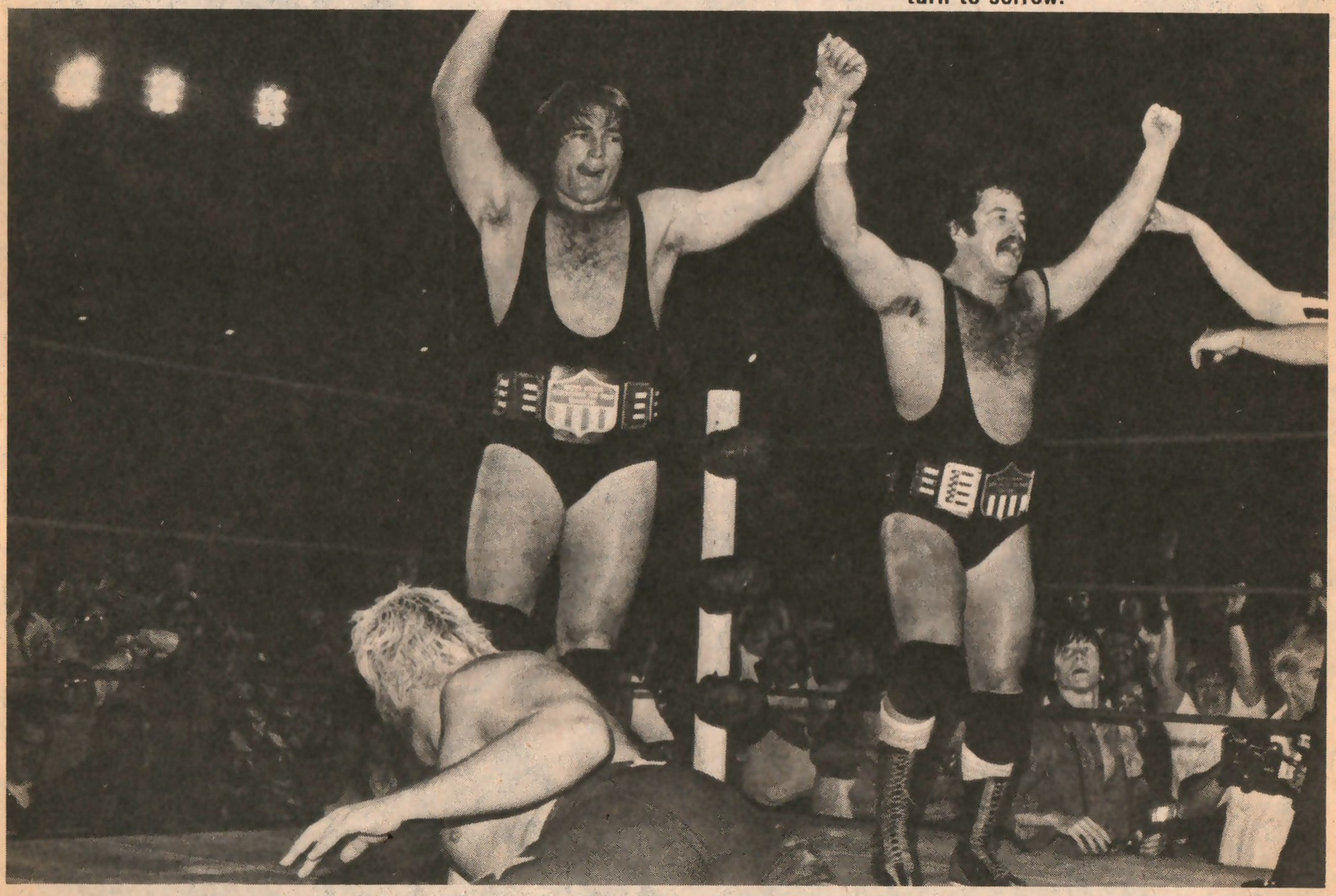
"That's how much the contract means to those swindlers. And that's what we'll do to them unless they return our belts," Handsome Jim exploded, then stomped the tattered white sheet. "We spent our own money to fly here, just to appear for this card, for this non-title match," Jim sneered viciously, "and those cheating bums didn't honor the contract."

Those "cheating bums" are the scientific tag team of Mike Graham and Steve Keirn. The "non-title match" was for the U.S. Tag Team title. Or was it?

"If they would read the contract, they'd know that it expressly stated that this match was for the title," Graham calmly explained after the match. "Attorneys carefully drew it up. The Valiants knew what they were getting into. It was their own fault that they lost the match. They lost fair and square.

"If this bout had not been a title match, why did they spend their own money and give up possible dates in Indianapolis and Tennessee to come here?"

Seeing the soft-spoken Keirn



Below: Keirn and Graham are jubilant after winning the U.S. title from the Valiants. Soon, however, the joy would turn to sorrow.

STEVE KEIRN AN

Just when Steve Keirn and Mike Graham were about to celebrate their winning the U.S. tag team title, the Valiants declared they had never really lost the belts. How could they make so outrageous a claim? And will they be able to make good their scheme to get back the title?

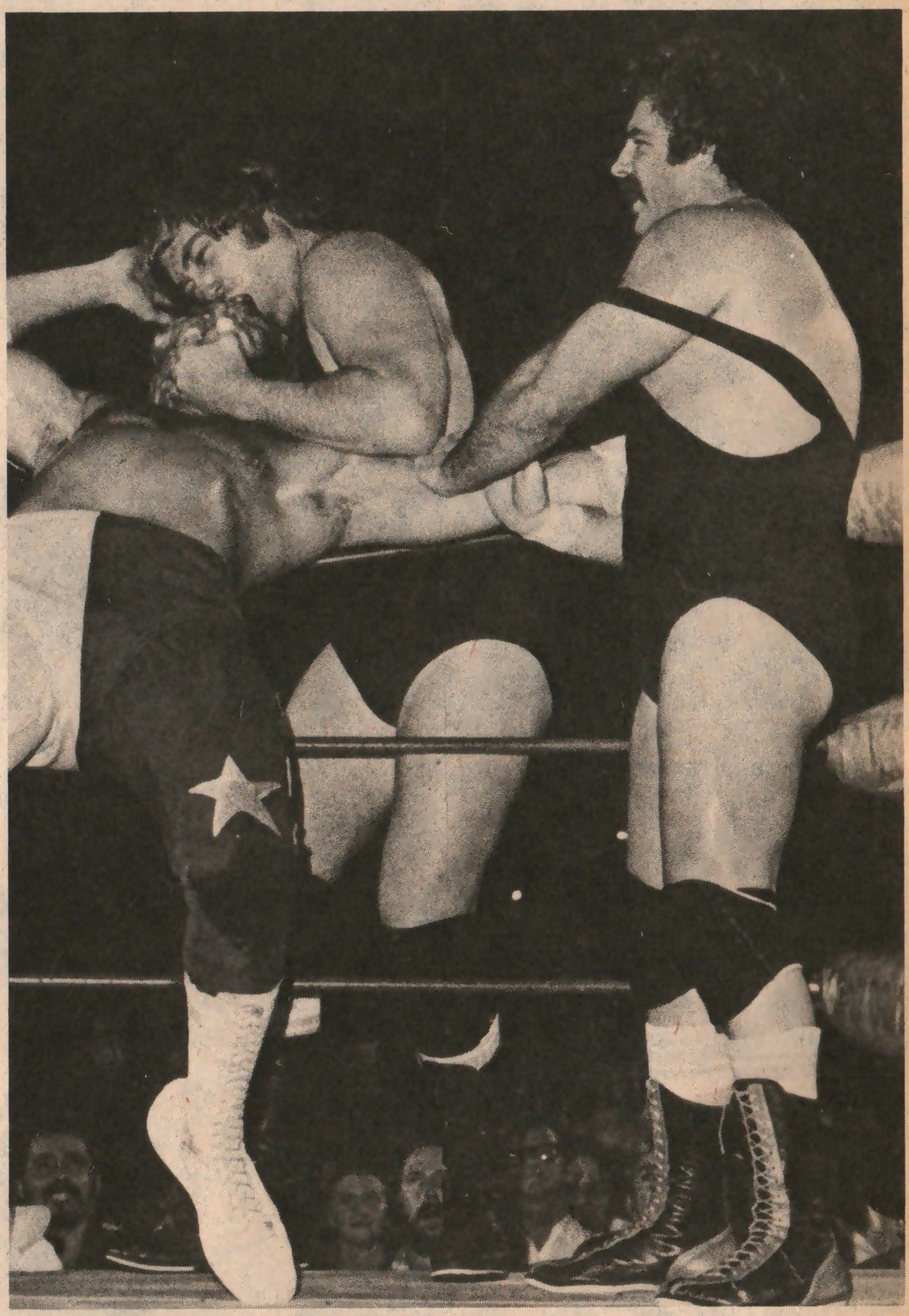
and Graham, it's difficult to imagine them engaging in any sort of conspiracy. While they insisted that their own copy of the contract wasn't available, they promised to have their attorney contact us. That phone call came several days later.

"In the contract it reads, and I'm reading it word for word so there can be no misquoting on this point," said their counselor, Albert Schnepper. "'This match is to determine the United States Tag Team championship.' That is the key sentence. Both parties entered into it in good faith. How the Valiants could claim that this wasn't a title match is beyond me."

So we returned to Luscious John and Handsome Jim. We recited the exact words of the contract. There was silence at the other end of the phone, then an erupting snort from Jim.

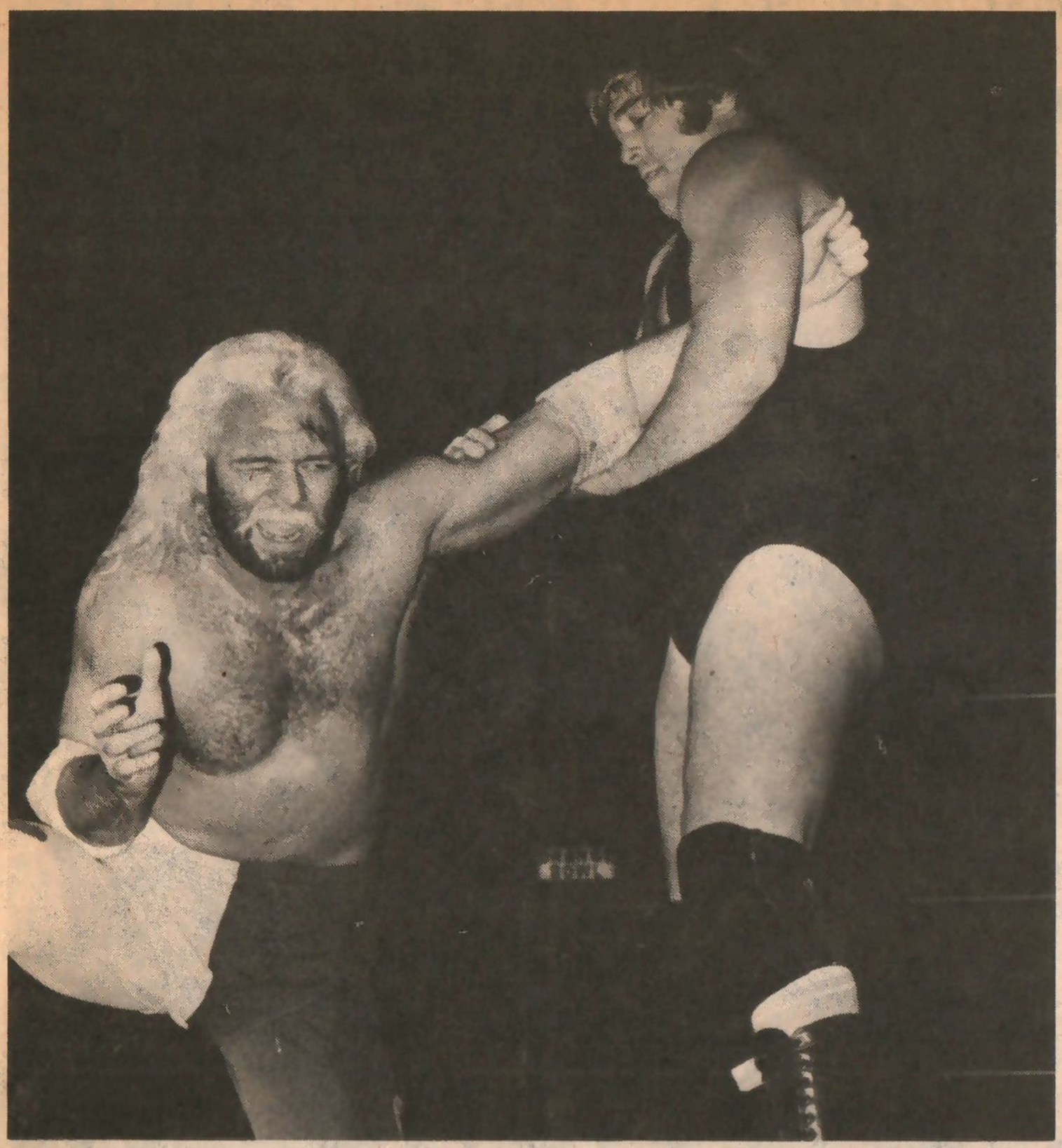
"Not only are they a lying bunch of tag team pansies, but their attorney is an ambulance-chasing shyster. We thought you might get back to us, so we had our attorney send us a copy. Now do you want to hear the truth?

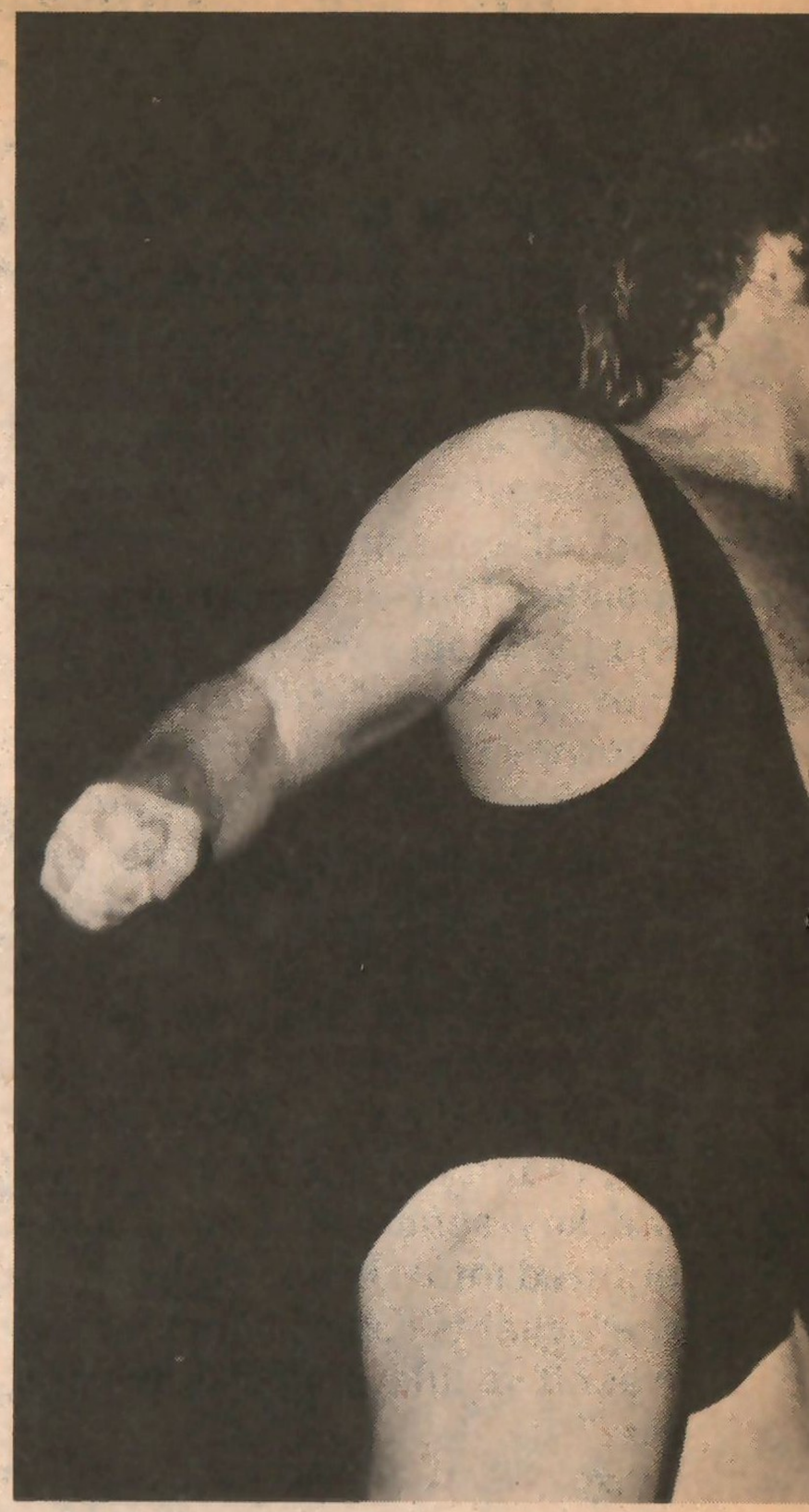
"This match between the United States Tag Team Champions, Jim Valiant and John Valiant, against Mike Graham and Steve Keirn, is not a title match. Whatever the outcome, John Valiant and Jim Valiant will still be considered United States Tag Team



The fans cheer wildly as Steve Keirn gives Handsome Jim Valiant a taste of his own medicine by biting his forehead. Moments before this photo was taken, Keirn had been savaged in a similar way by both Valiants.

D MIKE GRAHAM





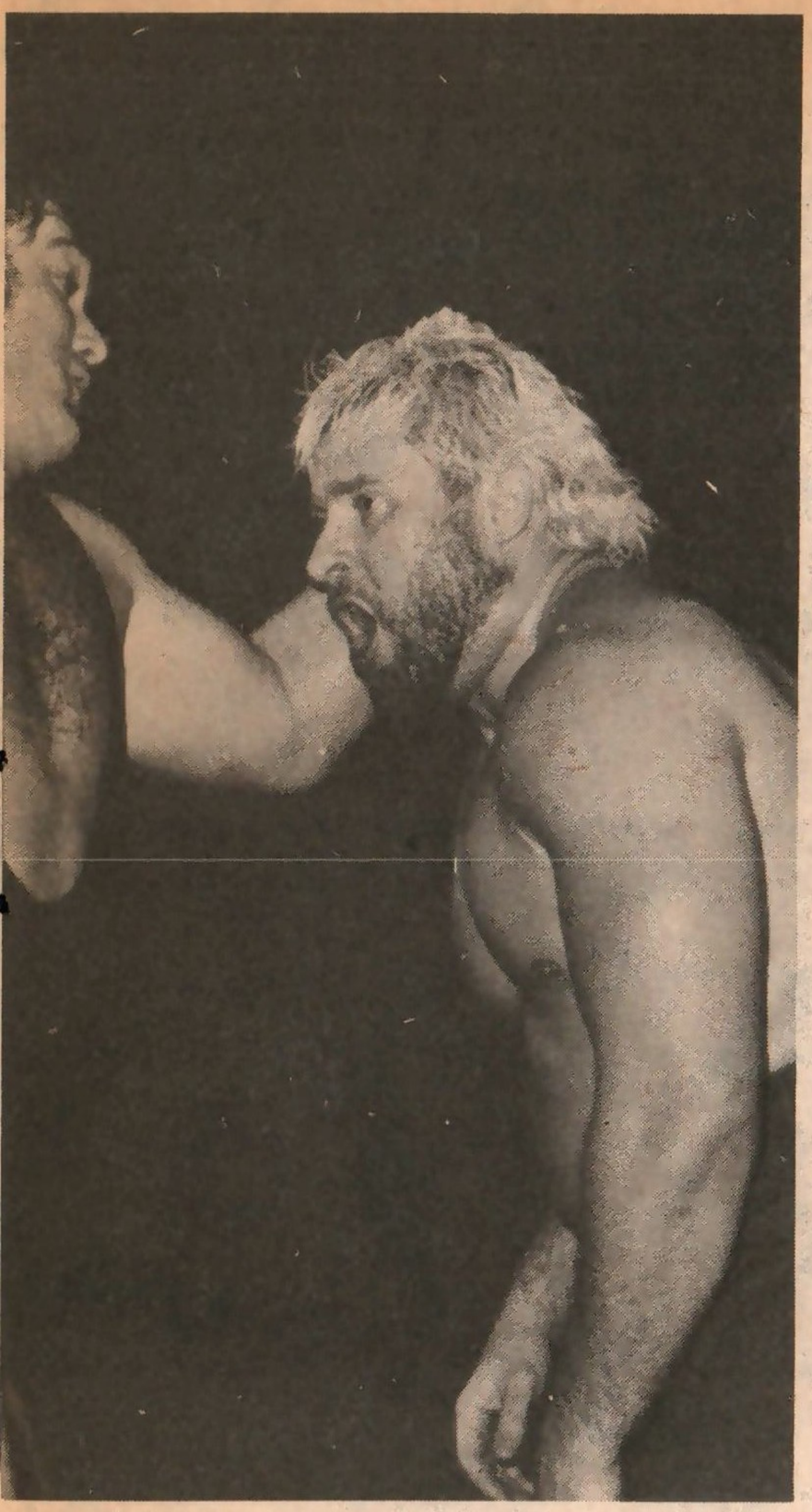
Champions.' Hah, what do you think of that?"

What we think is that there were two different contracts. Or one contract and two liars. But who are the liars?

"Everyone in the sport knows what kind of hard workers The Valiants are," said Luscious John. "We struggled for our belts. If this had been a title match, do you think we would have eased off on training? No, we went just for the card and to give those bums some exposure. If this had been for the belts—and remember, I said if—we would have trained and then pulled their sweet faces right off their heads."

"Sometimes champions get lazy and too cocky. That's what happened to the Valiants," said Keirn. "But why do I bother to defend Mike and myself against the Valiants' ravings? We have the belts, we won them fairly. It

Above left: Keirn has Jim Valiant down on one knee from the pain of an excruciating armbar. Above right: Luscious John Valiant is about to be clobbered by a right. Below: Mike Graham and Jim Valiant mix it up in center ring.



Above right: Jim Valiant is on the mat as Mike Graham applies pressure. Note the intense look on Steve Keirn's face as he watches from the corner. Below: A side headlock by John Valiant has Mike Graham in pain.

was a title match, according to the contract. If the Valiants want them back, let them sign for a rematch. But this time have them bring their reading teachers with them."

Neither tag team was prepared to send us a copy of the contract for documentation. Schnepper couldn't be reached for comment. So now the question becomes how to resolve the dispute. By words? By threats? By quoting so-called contracts?

"This will be settled with our hands," Handsome Jim announced. "No more relying on contracts or staking our honest reputation on the phony words of two hustlers. We want our belts. Tell Keirn and Graham we'll meet them anywhere, in any arena. Even on the docks. That should suit their personalities." □

STAR WA

THE PHONE RECEIVER was laid to rest on its cradle. Gary Rhein, New York business tycoon, couldn't believe it. He who could get box seats at the World Series three hours before game time and two on the aisle for "A Chorus Line" 15 minutes before the curtain rose, couldn't find even one ticket for Madison Square Garden the next day.

Everybody who knew the "right" people said the same thing: "The only way to get a ticket is to steal one. Everyone in town is hunting for them. Maybe $200 each, but that's only if you're lucky. Our advice is to forget it."

Rhein's experience was typical for New Yorkers who didn't order their tickets early for Dusty Rhodes' challenge to Superstar Billy Graham's title. Even 5,000 extra seats for a closed circuit television in the Felt Forum were scooped up immediately after they went on sale. New York wrestling fans were caught in the fever of this extraordinary wrestling event.

More than an hour before the Garden opened its doors, people were milling around, hoping to get a ticket from somewhere. Even the scalpers were asking other scalpers for even a hint of where some stray tickets might be found. Everyone came up empty. There were no tickets available for love or money.

The objects of this fervor had been slowly but surely training themselves for weeks. As the appointed hour approached, both Dusty Rhodes and Superstar Billy Graham were at their peaks. Each man knew he would have to give everything to survive. Yet the prize was worth the ordeal. The WWWF championship was at stake.

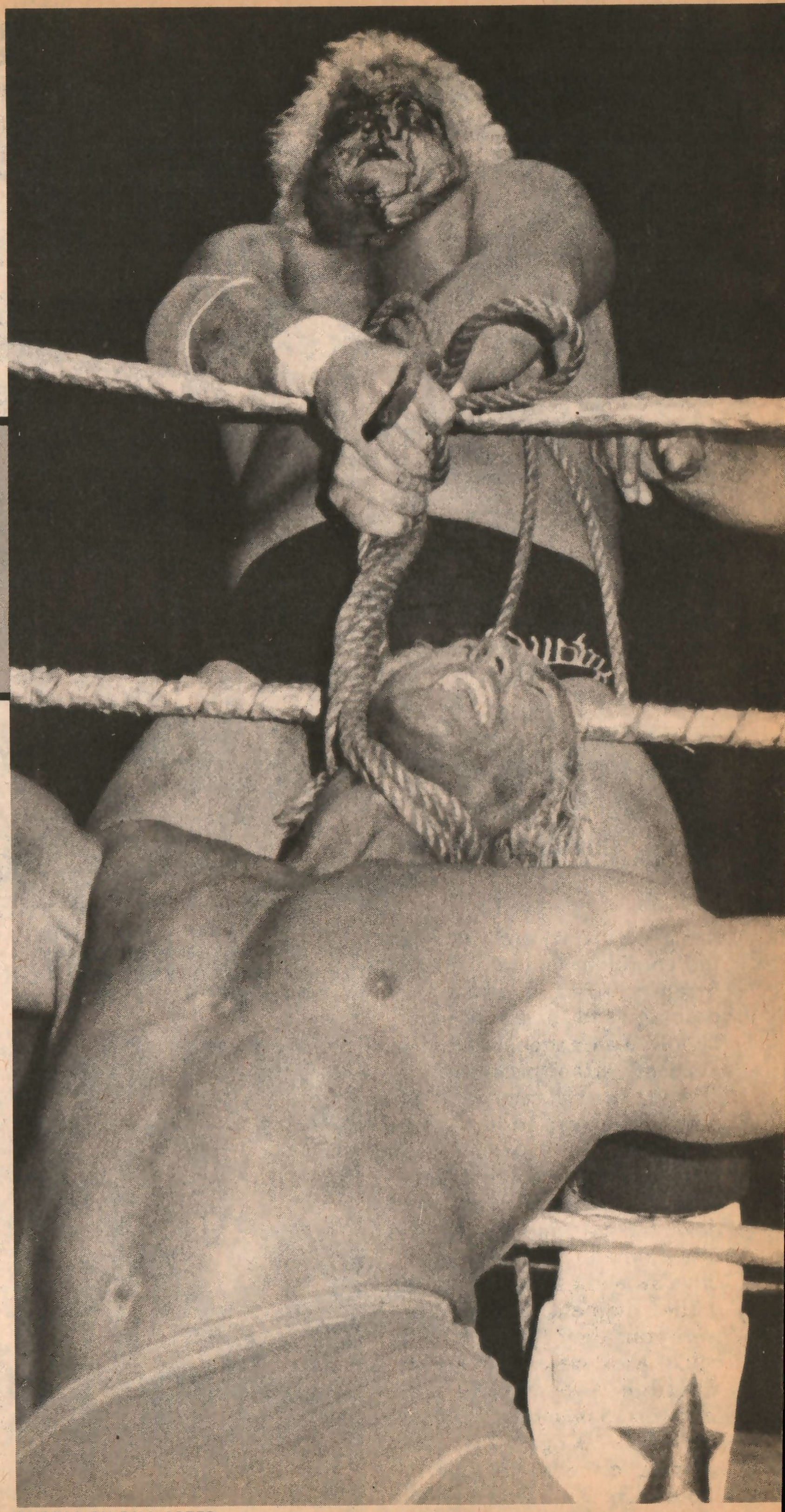
The arena was filled at least one half hour before the matches began. When the preliminary battles were fought, the crowd enjoyed them as a gourmet savors an appetizer—it whets the appetite for the main course. The fans were electric with anticipation as they waited for Rhodes and Graham to meet in combat.

In the dressing rooms, two men waited more anxiously than any. Dusty, usually a picture of confidence, sat nervously on the training table. Every so often he

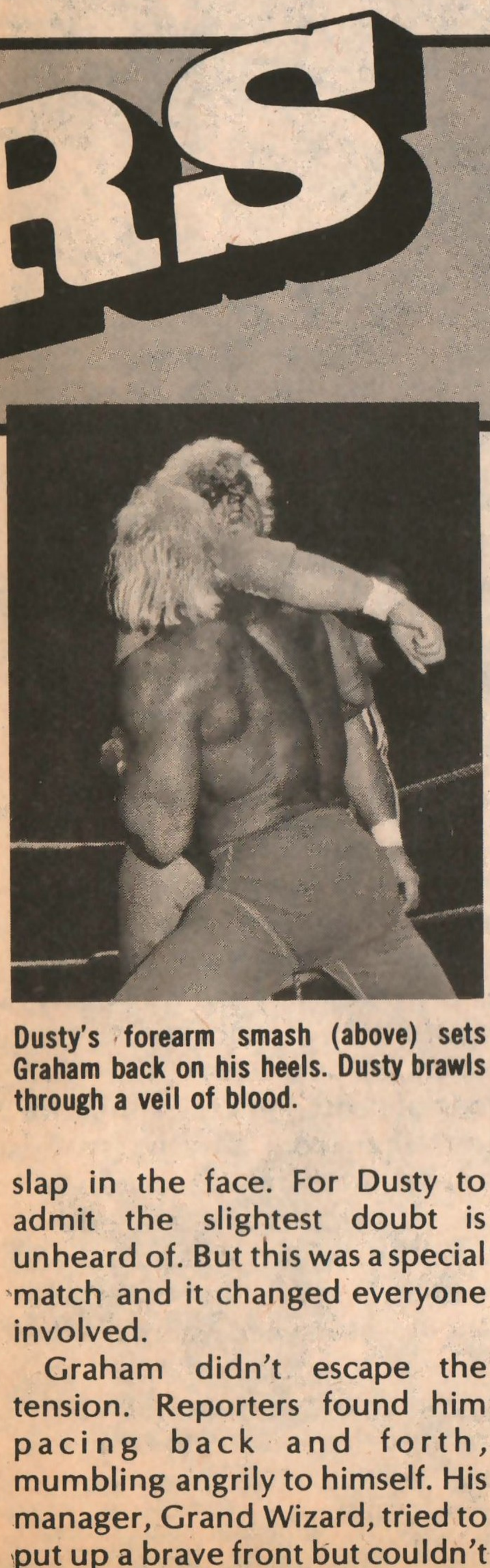
All New York was galvanized by Dusty Rhodes' challenge to Superstar Billy Graham. Here, in photos and text, is the entire story of the match that will be remembered for as long as wrestling exists!

would bounce off and start shadowboxing. "Got to work up a sweat, get loose. The explosion starts with the bell. Not a second to lose. Not a second!"

Sweat would start to roll down the athlete's body, "feels good, feels good! In an hour, it'll all be over. I'll be champ. Dusty Rhodes, American Dream, champion! Like the way that sounds! I will be champ, won't I?" That last qualifier was like a



PHOTOS BY BILL APTER



Dusty's forearm smash (above) sets Graham back on his heels. Dusty brawls through a veil of blood.

slap in the face. For Dusty to admit the slightest doubt is unheard of. But this was a special match and it changed everyone involved.

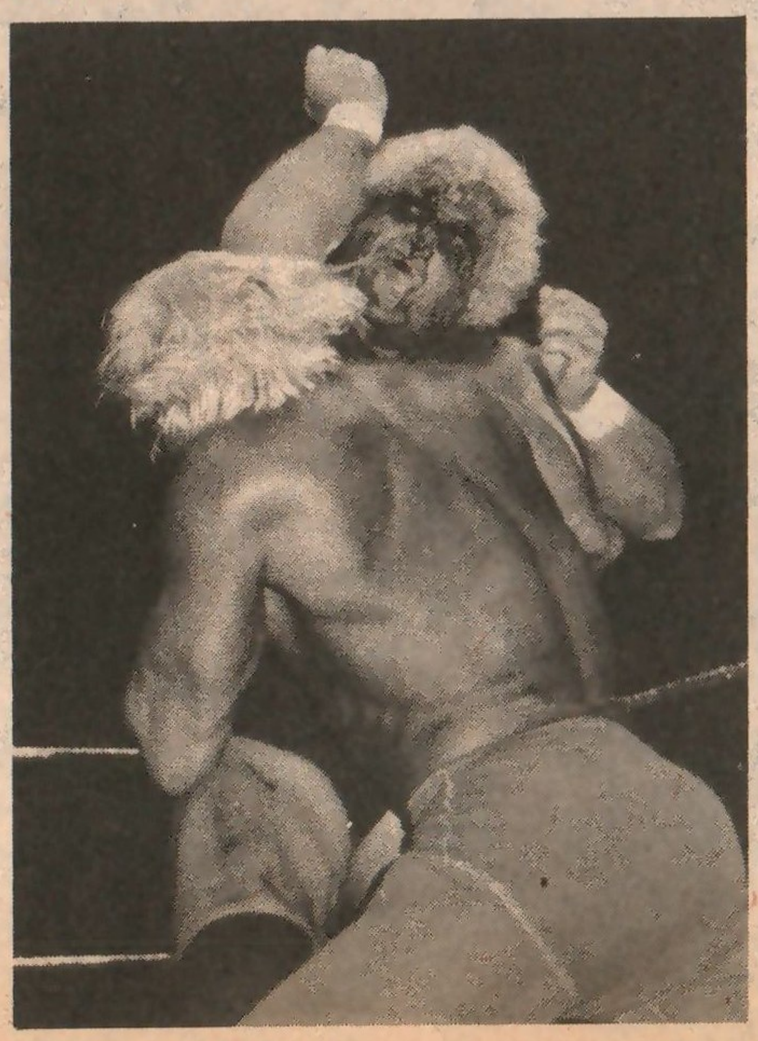
Graham didn't escape the tension. Reporters found him pacing back and forth, mumbling angrily to himself. His manager, Grand Wizard, tried to put up a brave front but couldn't

manage it. Worry broke through the confident facade easily and often. Wizard's stream of promises and threats, sounding hollow, were a strange partner to Graham's erratic pacing.

When the call came for them, both men reacted the same. Each jumped as if jolted by a 120 volts. The tension was so great, each man trembled as he walked down the aisle into the ring. The first moment of combat would drive away these demons.

The moment arrived. Fans were on their feet, shouting wildly. Most were behind Dusty, although Superstar had his followers. Still, most people feel the rulebreaking Graham is a disgrace to the WWWF title and shout accordingly. Some people were stuffing cotton in their ears to shut out the din.

The two battlers are caught in the corner as Dusty smashes away at the WWWF champion. Below: Dusty smashes hard at the charging Billy Graham late in the brawl.



Then, with a crystal clarity that changed everything, the bell rang. Rhodes rushed toward Graham. The champion strode purposefully toward his challenger. They locked. For an extended moment, these two magnificent athletes, muscles bursting from strain, stood frozen in combat. Fans stopped cheering as they stared in dumbstruck awe. Then Graham twisted Dusty to the right and Rhodes sprawled across the canvas.

With panther grace, Rhodes sprang to his feet and the war was on. Two titans used every ounce of their ability to capture victory.

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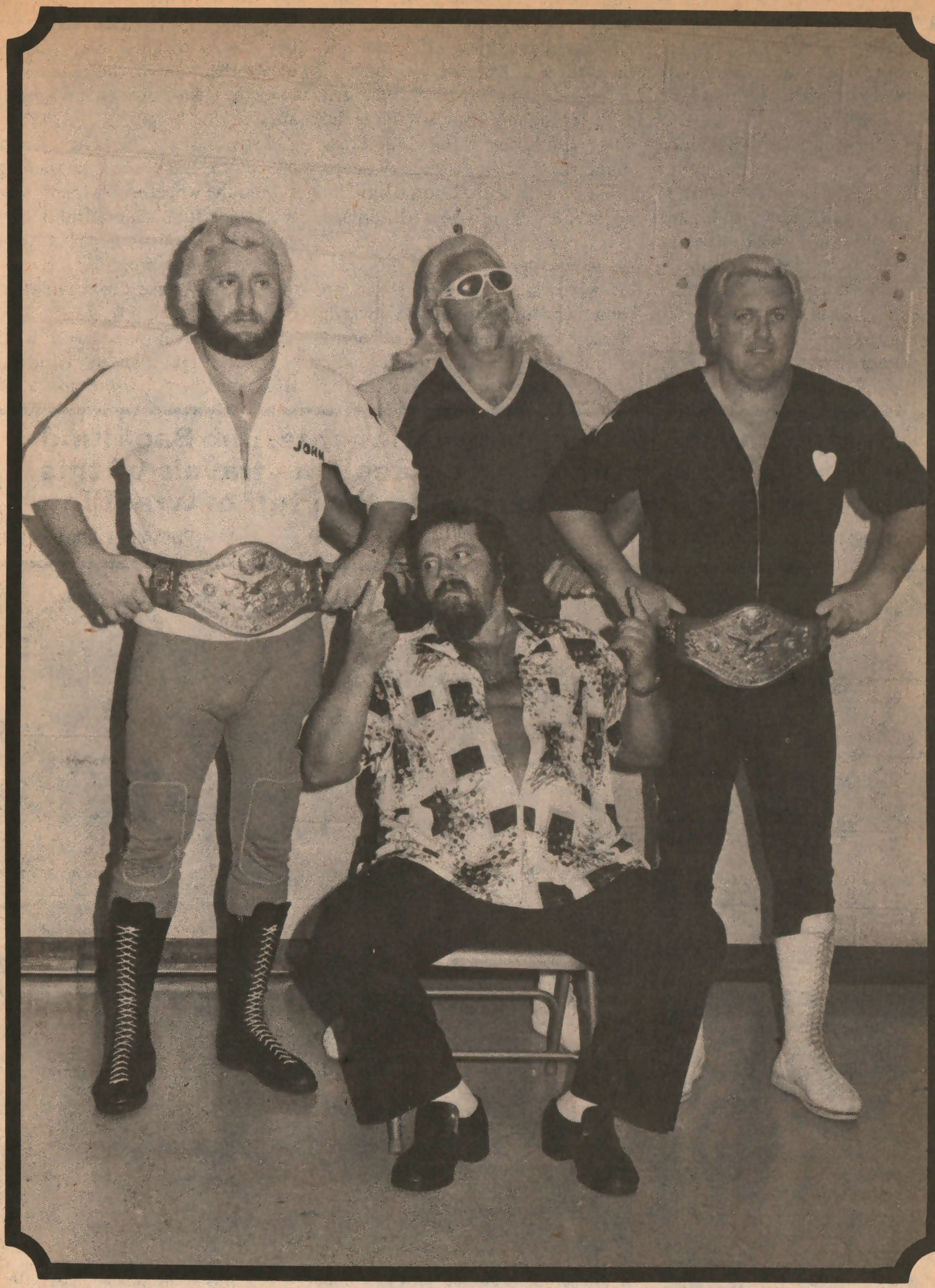


THE VALIANTS & LOU ALBANO

A PROFESSIONAL WRESTLER has to have some of the vagabond in him. They have to love the open road as far as the eye can see. Bob Backlund is that kind of special person.

Trying to keep up with Backlund means never unpacking your suitcase. Towns look the same as you drive from arena to arena, vaguely aware there is a new motel, a new arena, and a new opponent. It can make most people go crazy. Somehow, Backlund thrives on it.

"You get used to confusion," Bob claims, "if you expect it, nothing will bother you. As long as you know you have to be in one place at a certain time, everything else takes care of itself. And you have to be a little crazy to like it.

"Most people want to return home at night. I just want to see the sun rise in a new place. Old places make me tired. New scenery keeps a man on his toes. I don't want to go home. I want to go someplace else.

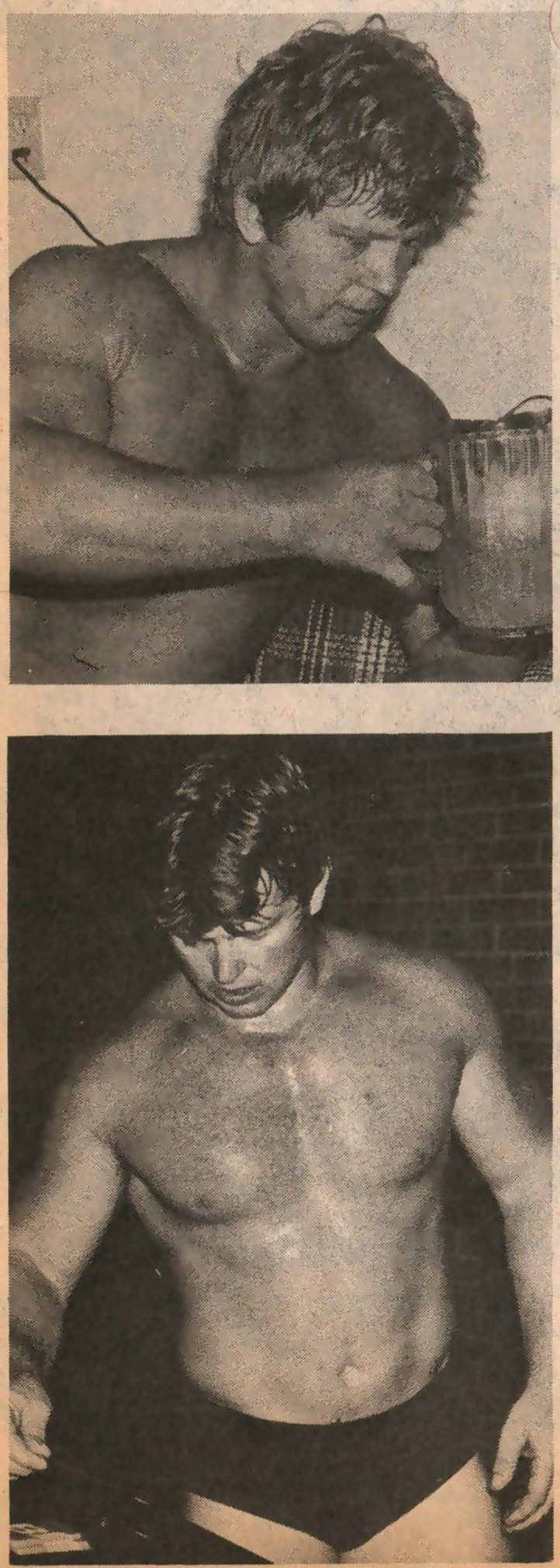
"A wrestler has to feel this way. Guys who stay in any one place too long wind up mentally awkward. Athletes need new and different competition all the time. That's why it's important to keep on the go. Maybe that's what does it. I like traveling because it assures me of new competition. It's the promise of another match that makes me love the road. Another highway, another challenge."

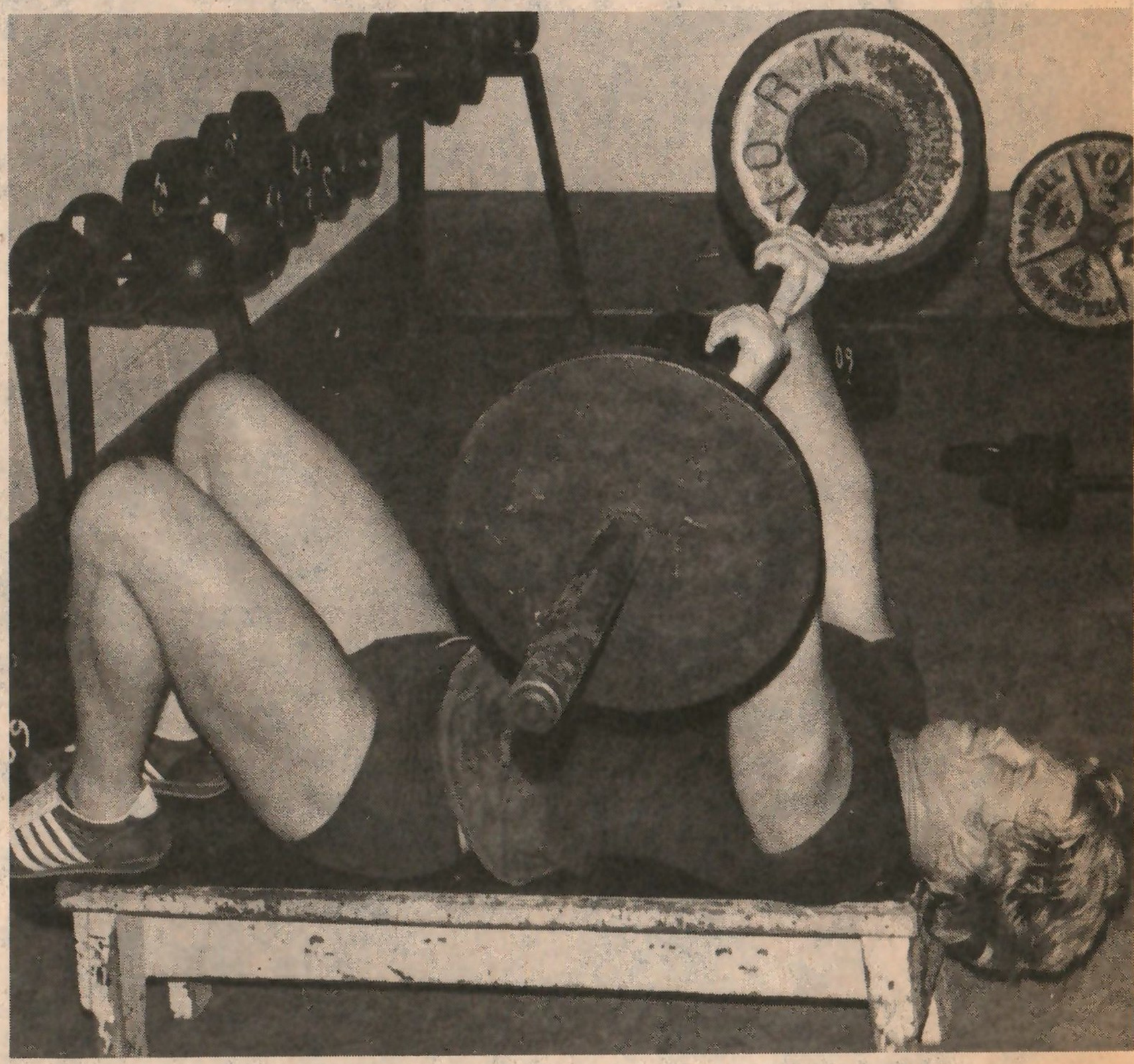
Driving has become second nature to Backlund—he belongs behind the wheel. A traveler's sixth sense tells him which diners serve good food. Hours can pass without him tiring. A companion arrives at the arena close to comatose. Backlund is raring to go.

To the casual observer, Bob's schedule may seem random. However, *there is a method to his*

In many towns, against many opponents, Bob Backlund builds his reputation for greatness. The travels of this young hero are quickly becoming the stuff of wrestling legend

PHOTOS BY ROGER DEEM





A pitcher of lemonade provides Bobby with refreshment (above left) after a particularly grueling match. Bob practices some card tricks (left) to ease his tension before wrestling Lord Al Hays. Backlund is a strict believer when it comes to training. Whatever town Bob is in, you can find him training several hours every day (above).

matches. Opponents are chosen to test him against various types of wrestlers. Backlund continues to reach out and take the toughest matches. In each contest, he gets a little better and learns a little more. One forgets the trials of traveling as the growth of Bob's greatness is revealed. It's easy to understand why Backlund loves this life.

One night, Bob is wrestling against Roger Kirby. This

ON THE ROAD WITH BOB BACKLUND

notorious grappler can execute any dirty move in the book. Bob waged a furious battle against him, brilliantly thwarting every illegal tactic. There were times when Bob was in triumph, but never from the same tactic twice. It's a tough way to get an education, but there's no other way to become champion.

The next day, most men would rest. That's why only a special few attain wrestling greatness. Backlund was up bright and early. It was off to the gym for some training.

A person can become exhausted watching Backlund exercise. He

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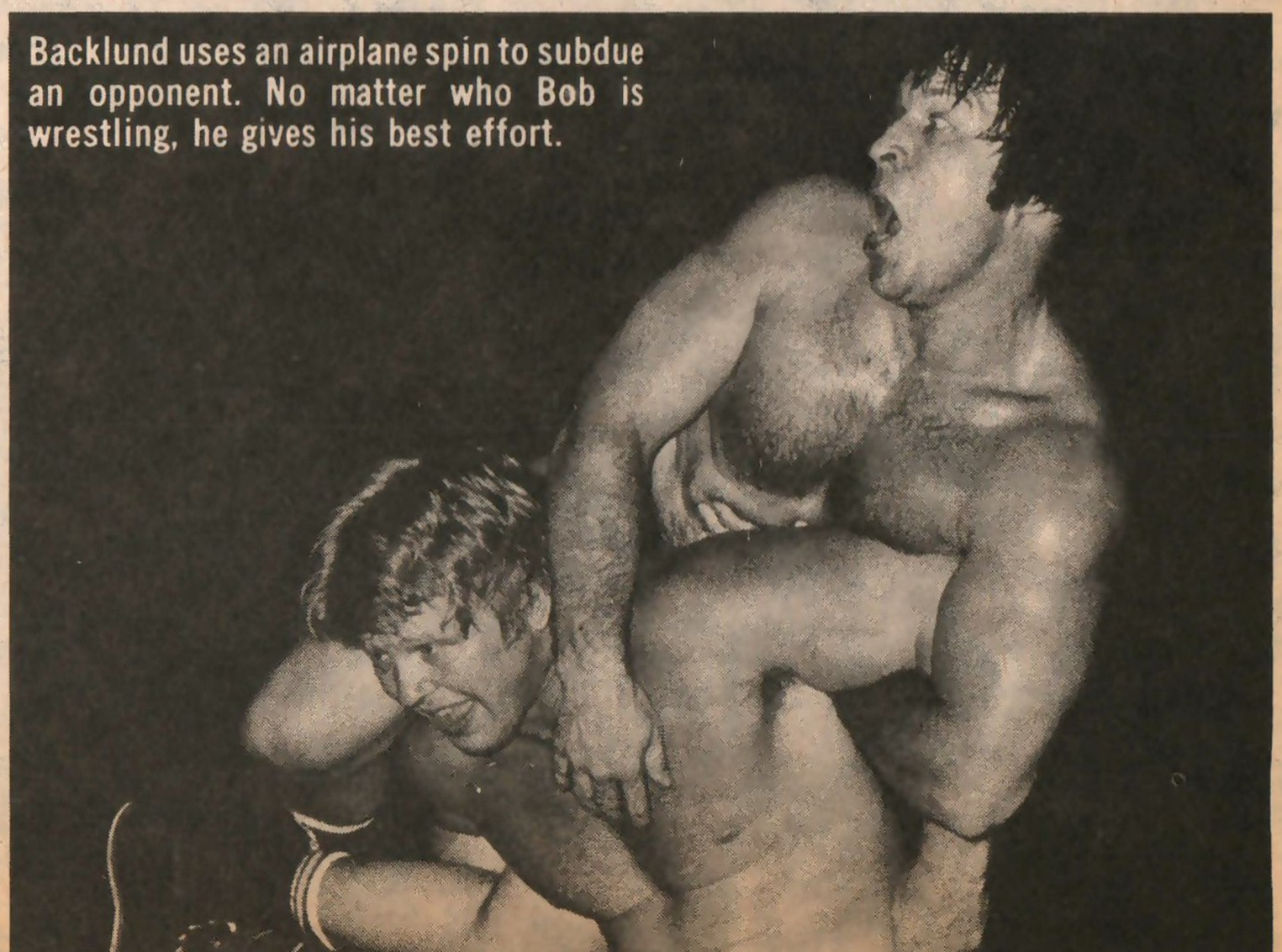
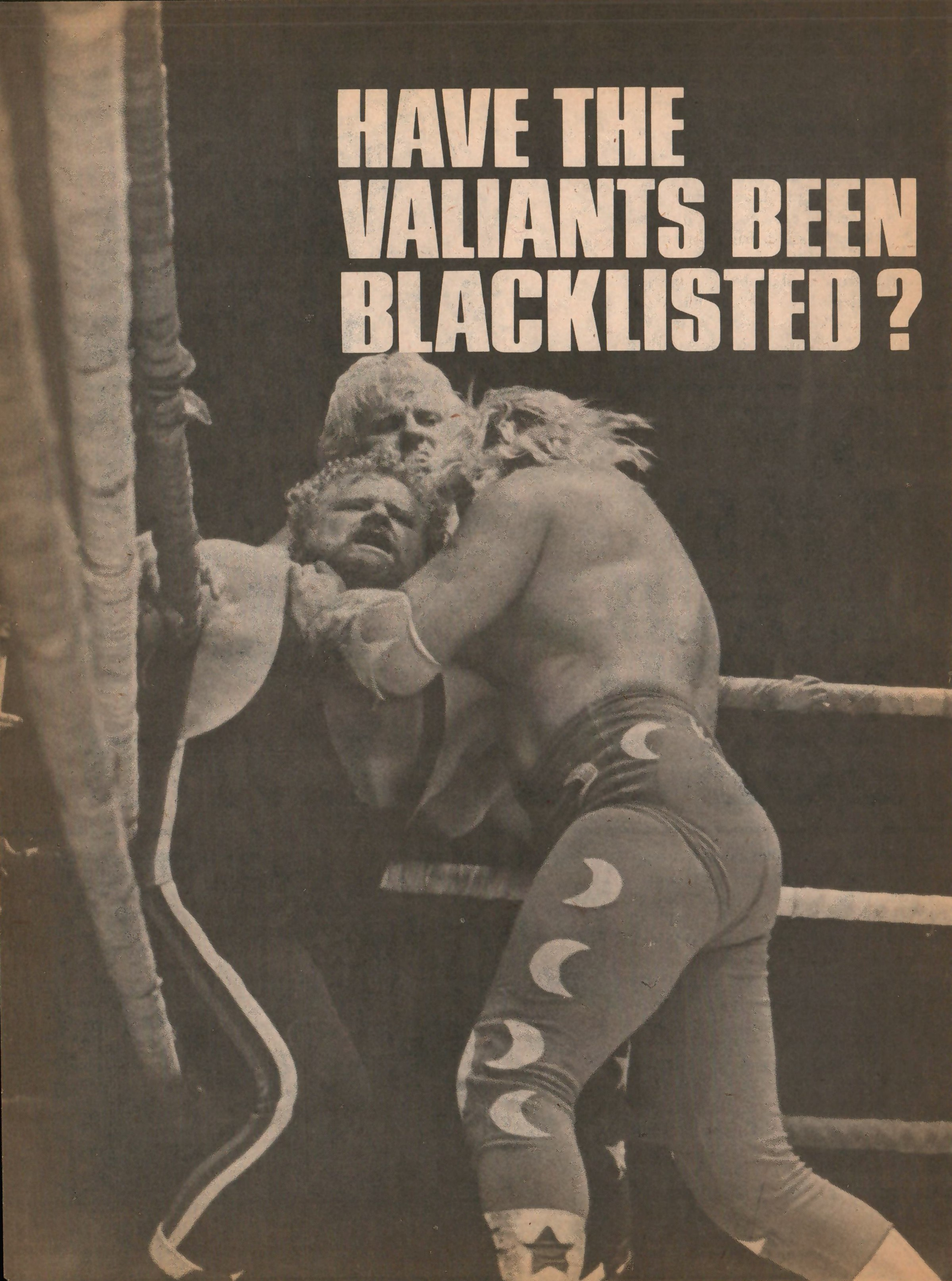


Backlund uses an airplane spin to subdue an opponent. No matter who Bob is wrestling, he gives his best effort.

HAVE THE VALIANTS BEEN BLACKLISTED?



THE LIST CONTAINED over 100 names. Lines were through 88 of them. After the telephone receiver came crashing down, Jim Valiant scribbled through number 89. He began to dial the next number when he stopped and hung up.

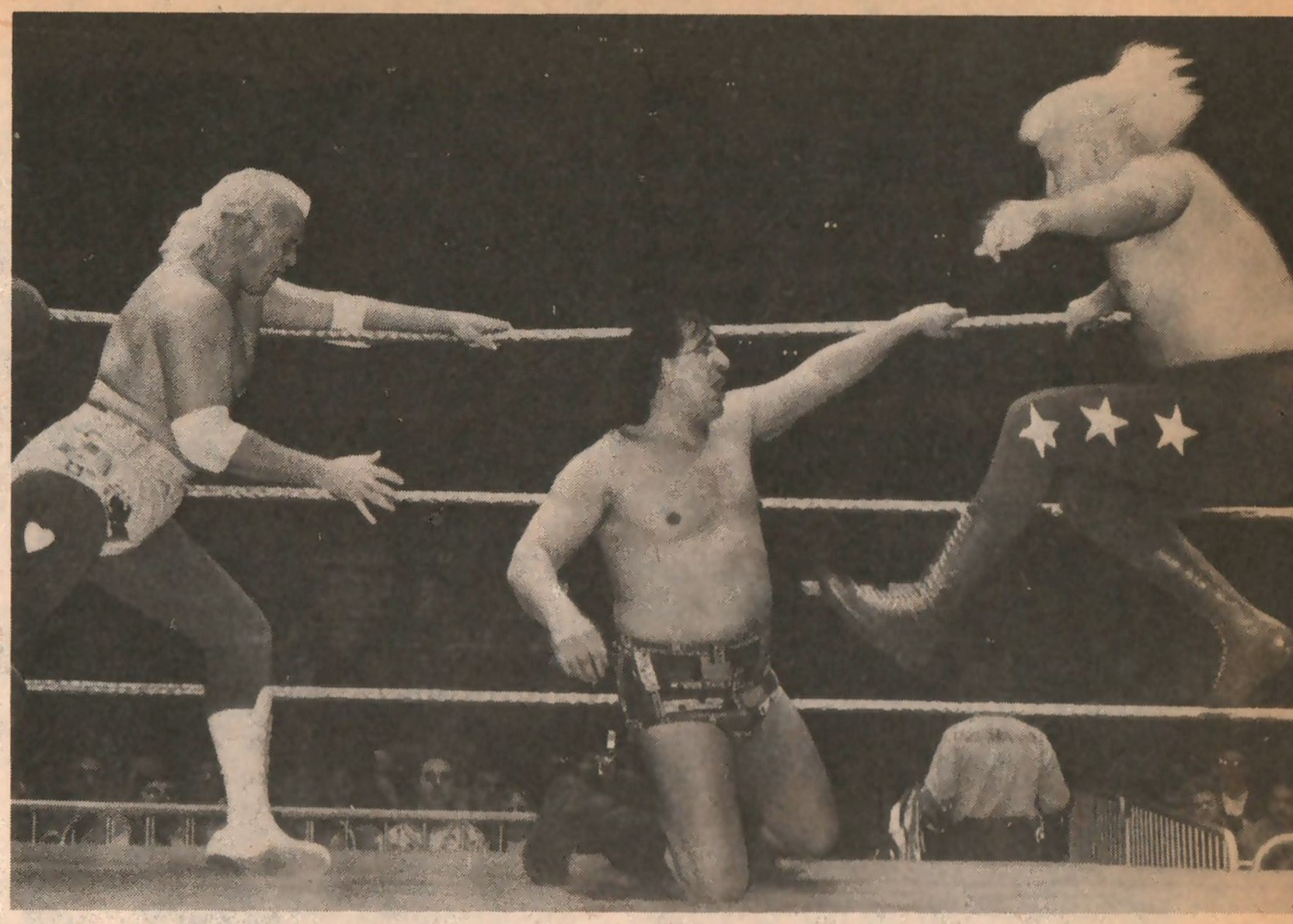
"I'm tired," the athlete explained, "I can't hear any more lies today. No sense rushing when it's a hopeless cause."

John Valiant tried to buoy his brother's spirits but could find nothing to say. He tried to think of some gesture that might help. But how does one beaten man help another? The Valiants, who once ran roughshod over all wrestling, feared they were beaten.

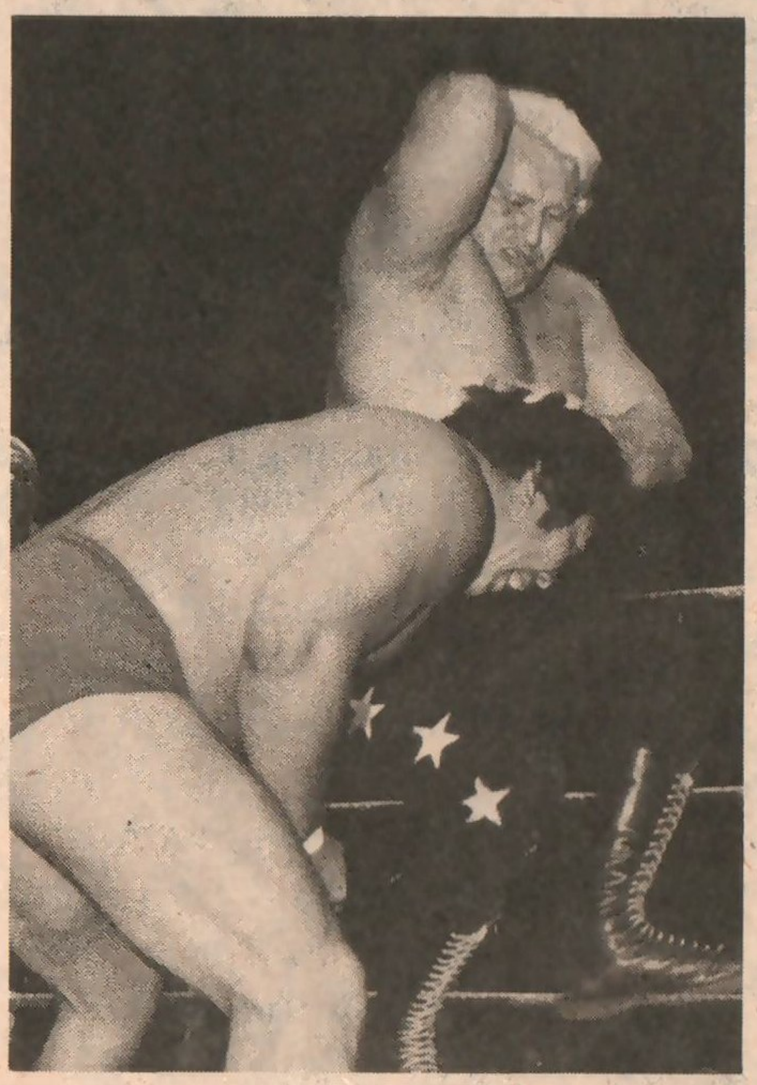
When the pair ruled, they never asked anything from anyone. Everything passes, everything changes. Now the brothers realized when you thumb your nose at the world, it's an invitation to get that nose punched all over your face. The tag team is reeling from the pounding.

The list contained the names of promoters, men who had once paid small fortunes to have the Valiants wrestle in their arenas. Now these same promoters refuse to hire the pair. The Valiants are beginning to fear their names are on a blacklist.

Blacklist. There is no more degrading experience a human being can suffer. Once your name appears on one, the only course open is defeat. There are



Above: Both Jim and John Valiant leap into the fray to doubleteam Chief Jay Strongbow. Below left: John is about to land an elbowsmash on Dean Ho's head. Below right: Larry Hennig is the victim of Jim Valiant's powerful headlock. Lately, the Valiants have been having difficulty getting matches, leading them to believe they have been blacklisted.



Why are the Valiants wrestling so infrequently? Only a few years ago they were the most feared and famous tag team in the world. Have they been forced into idleness by a conspiracy against them? Don't answer until you've read this article

Jim Valiant covers Bruno Sammartino's face with a chemically treated cloth during a 1974 match. Since the Valiants left the WWWF, they have been wrestling less and less frequently. Is there a conspiracy to keep the hated brothers away from the arenas?

many ways one can suffer the defeat, but the end result is always the same. And there's no way to fight it, for everyone will deny the list exists. Sometimes, it becomes known one can escape the list for the price of money or dignity. Other times, it's a permanent sentence to limbo.

No one has to tell the Valiants what a blacklist means. They even know how it feels—an everpresent coiled pain tears at the pit of their stomachs. If the blacklist does exist, and a few more promoters subscribe to it, the Valiants' careers are finished.

But does the blacklist exist? Naturally, promoters will deny it no matter what. However, their explanations for Jim and John failing to wrestle all over are believable. This could be much more complicated and a lot less catastrophic than the Valiants believe.

If any promoter in wrestling can be trusted, the man is Thomas Clare. He has always been fair and honest with everyone. The man would rather lose his promotion than lie. This is why he often finds himself having to answer questions no other promoter dares face.

"Would you believe me," Tom asks with a cynical smile, "if I tell you there is and there isn't a blacklist against the Valiants? Before you laugh, let me explain. And please don't interrupt until I'm finished. I want to make sure I construct this whole thing correctly.

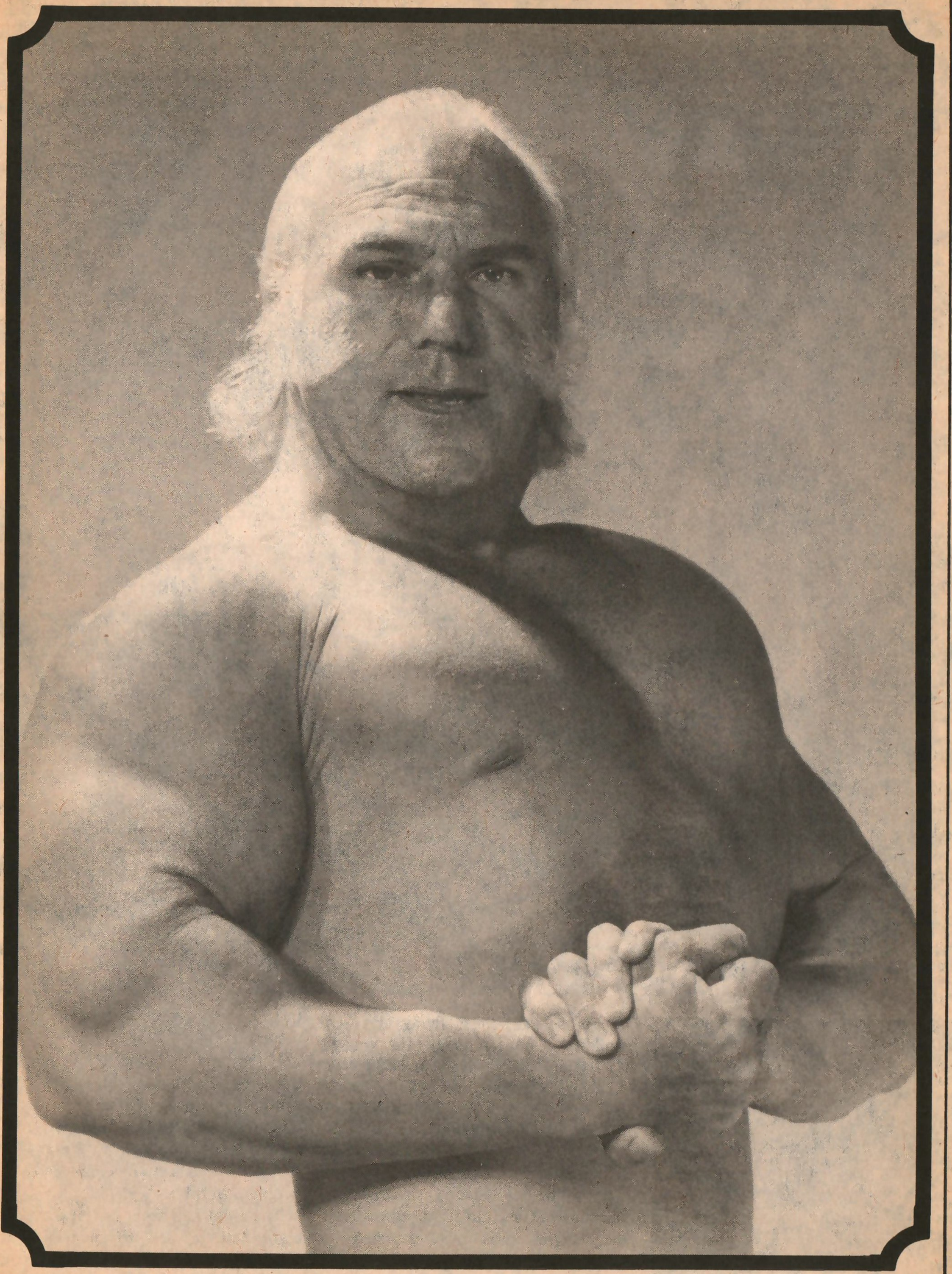
"First, there is no official blacklist against the Valiants. There is no official blacklist of any wrestler. I wouldn't be in the sport if there was. I don't think there's even the apparatus to put one into play.

"What's happening to the Valiants may be considered an unofficial blacklist, though the word 'blacklist' is more sinister than what's actually happening. You see, when the Valiants were riding high, they demanded fantastic sums of money and treated the promoters like dirt. I was personally called names no human being should hear. They also thought it great fun to destroy dressing rooms and terrorize arena employees. Because they were so popular, the pair had to be tolerated.

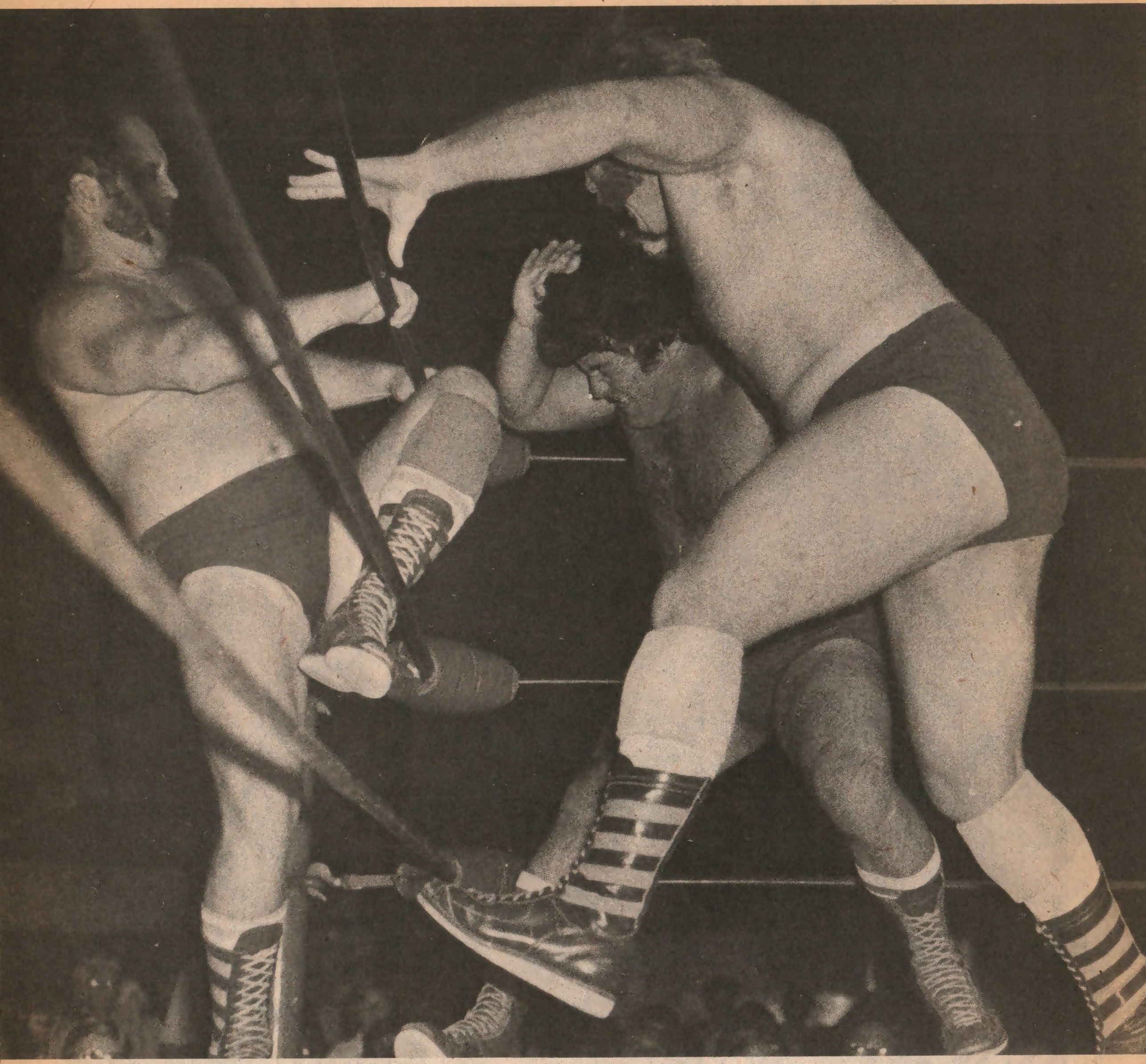
"Well, when they lost the WWWF tag team title, the guys decided to take it easy for a while. Naturally, other teams filled the void, other champions were crowned. Eventually, promoters realized they didn't have to take the Valiants' nonsense. So when the brothers made their usual outrageous demands, the promoters told them to take a swim in shark-infested waters. Not seeing which way the wind was blowing, they railed against the promoters and made all sorts of stupid threats. Unfortunately for them, there is nothing to back up the threats. The promoters knew this and called their bluff. The Valiants found themselves being turned down by a lot of promoters.

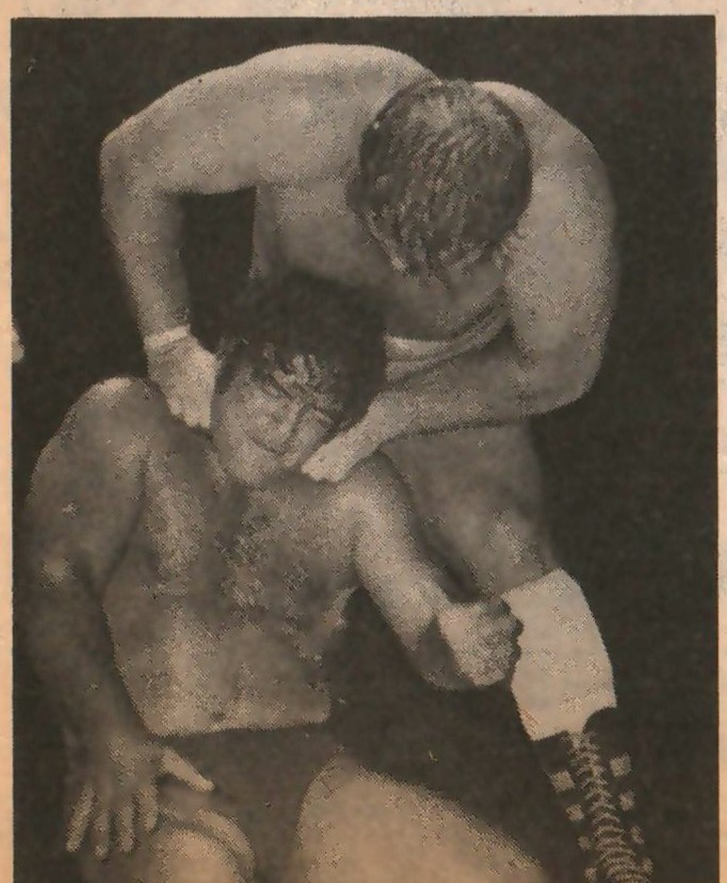
"Now, promoters are human beings, and it takes a special

(Continued on page 56)



SUPERSTAR GRAHAM





Ole sends Paul Jones flying into Gene Anderson's knee (above). The younger Anderson then tortures Paul with a nerve hold (left). Hearing the fans' jeers make Ole and Gene work even harder at destroying their opposition.

TEARS STREAMED DOWN the young boy's face as he ran back to his family. The child cried out of anger and shame. His mother tried to comfort him, but he angrily pushed her away.

"I hate them!" the youngster shouted as he plopped down in his seat. "I hope they break every bone in their bodies. I hope they die! I hope they die!"

If the men he hates, the Anderson brothers, could see the child, they would have broken out in peals of laughter. In fact, their wrestling improves when they know an Anderson success has made other people miserable.

The child had wept because the tag team had refused to give him an autograph. That didn't start the tears flowing, though. It was the way they had refused the child which made him cry.

"The brat wants our autograph,"

THE MORE YOU HATE THE ANDERSONS... THE BETTER THEY BECOME

People despise the Andersons with an almost frightening hatred. One would think this might make the Andersons change their ways. Instead, it seems these men think being hated is the best of all possible worlds!

Ole sneered at Gene, "as if he could read. What makes you think you deserve an autograph, kid? To even be insulted by us is more than you deserve. Why don't you go back to the rock your parents are lying under?"

"I hate you both!" the child screamed before leaving. As he walked away, the sound of Andersons cackling rang in his ears.

The two men strode back to the dressing room, faces glowing. Insulting a youngster gives them a lift, makes them happier. It's like giving the pair an injection of energy. And when they're up psychologically, they're devastating in combat.

Many wrestlers say they get renewed power from the fans' cheers. The Andersons get power from just the opposite reaction. Boos are music to their ears. Hatred is an emotion they adore. They'll do anything to generate shouts of outrage.

"We'd be embarrassed," Gene Anderson states, "if the fans liked us. Have you seen wrestling fans? They're stupider than your average lamppost. If someone yelled 'Fire!' in a wrestling arena, the fans would light matches. These are people I'm supposed to want as admirers? Those morons are unfit to judge anything, much less something as complex as wrestling. Insulting these fools is a natural high. It puts you in a good mood to further infuriate them by beating up their favorites. I hear a boo and the world looks great."

"I don't think we should tell the fans this," Ole says with a sly grin. "They may stop screaming. That would cease to give us an edge. And that might hurt us. So why don't we just say the Andersons hate the stupid fans. We'll let them react to that in their own stupid way."

Some people may think this is just the team making excuses for their nasty behavior. However, a look at the record makes their claim appear valid. The two men were riding roughshod over the NWA, defeating teams with a cool savagery. They seemed unbeatable. Then, against the equally despised team of Greg Valentine and Ric Flair, the Andersons lost the titles. Most observers believe their losing battle was the worst the Andersons had ever wrestled.

An ecstatic feeling overcomes Gene as he hears Johnny Weaver's bones crunching while he executes a perfect backbreaker.

Why did the team collapse? What was missing? The fans' rage. Because Flair and Valentine were also hated, the fans didn't boo with the same

(Continued on page 58)

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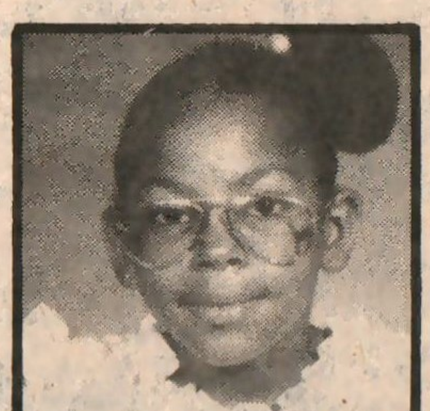

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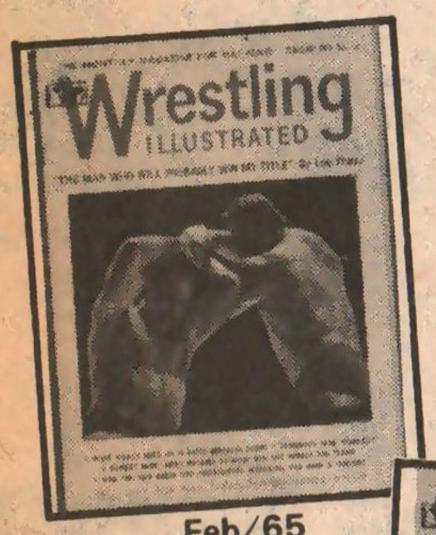
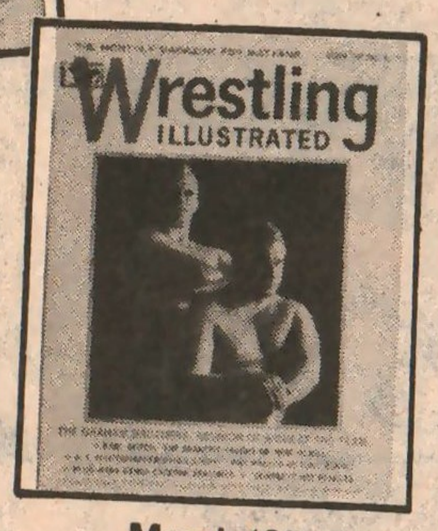


Feb/65
PEPPER GOMEZ



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STAN HANSEN

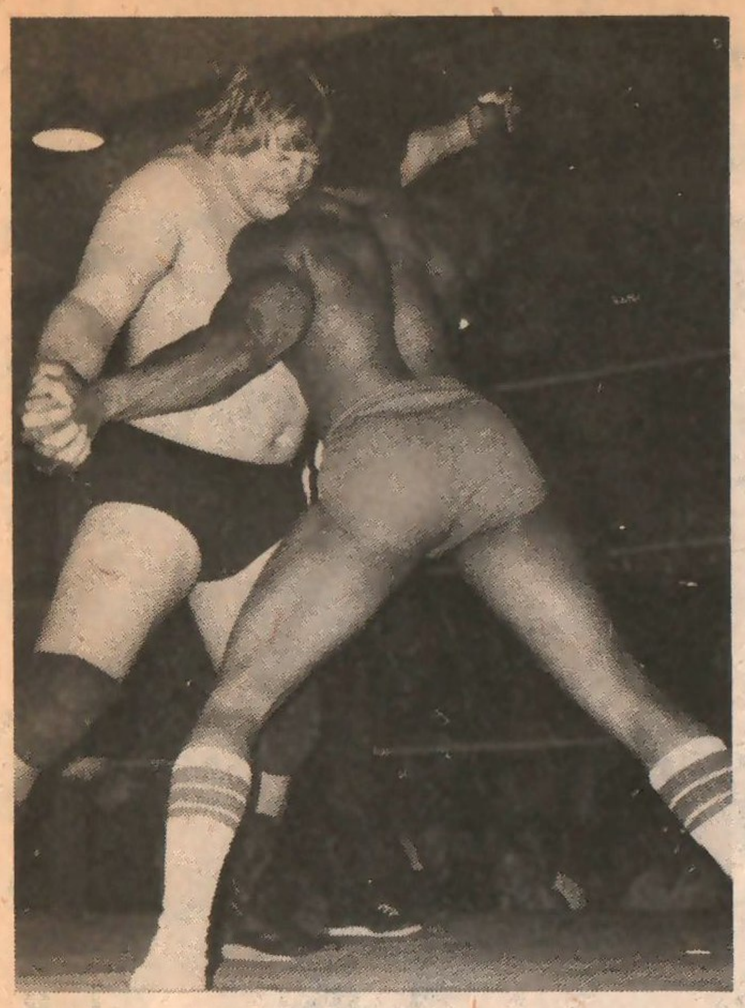
(Continued from Page 21)

as how he is perceived by his opponents.

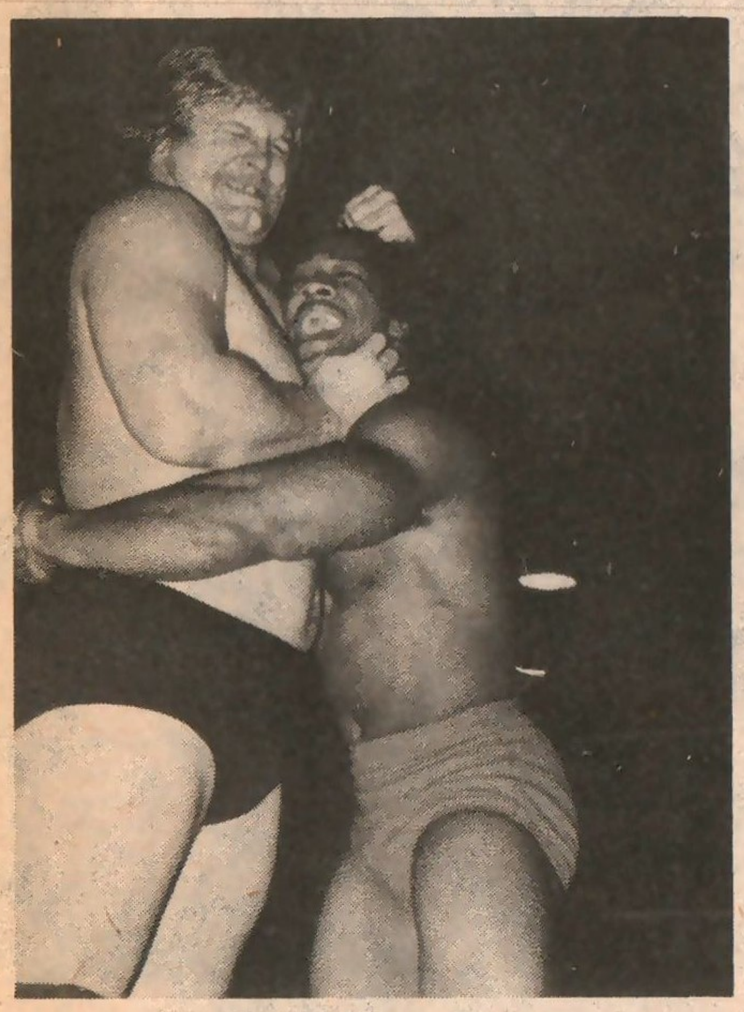
"People tend to underestimate him," Atlas said. "Hansen is just not taken seriously. Wrestlers think he's a fluke champion. Once people realize that he has some skills, though not much, they'll be better prepared, mentally. Then he's gonna lose the title."

"I don't care for none of that psychology crap people use,"

Dusty is trapped in a corner as Hansen uses a knee to try and knock "The Dream" unconscious. Hansen is the man who broke Bruno Sammartino's neck several years ago by using the "Lariat" hold he perfected just for that purpose.



Hansen uses scientific wrestling (above), but when it fails to do any damage, he resorts to a devastating chokehold (below).



Hansen sneered. "I'm just a bad dude and people are afraid of me. It's that simple, baby. You walk down the streets of Georgia and ask people who's the baddest dude and they're gonna say, "Stan Hansen." Try it, baby."

Someday someone is going to give Stan Hansen a whipping he deserves. Someday someone is going to exact bloody revenge for all the painful, needless injuries inflicted by Hansen.

When that day happens, Hansen will join the lengthy list of ex-Georgia heavyweight champions. The question is when. □

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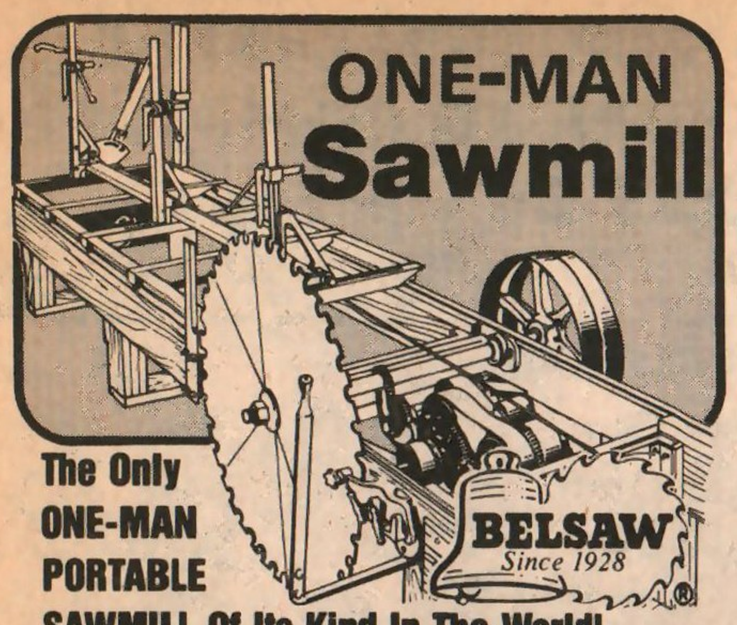

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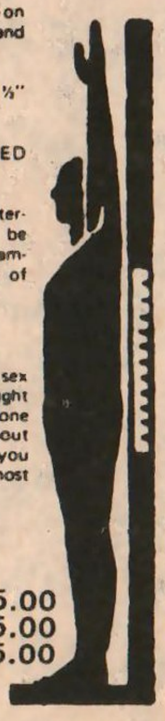

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STAR WARS

(Continued from Page 36)

The referee struggles to get Graham to release the rope around Dusty's neck. Dusty, bloody and gasping for air, finally squirmed his way free. Moments later, Dusty had the rope and was choking Graham.

People cheered wildly as the two grabbed, clutched, twisted, punched, mauled, flipped, choked, pounded, kicked, struggled. Cheers rent the stadium at each encounter.

As might be expected, no ring is big enough to hold this battle. The pair, still locked in combat, fell over the ropes. Rhodes was hit first, a huge gash appearing across his forehead. Blood poured down his face and into his hair, turning his blond locks scarlet. Graham wasn't bloody . . . yet.

The two men warred outside the ring, Graham getting the advantage. Dusty crawled back into the ring, knowing retreat was the only intelligent move. While Rhodes lay exhausted, Graham rummaged under the ring. When he emerged, Billy carried a huge rough rope with him. No one had to be told what was going to be done with it.

Graham quickly tried to

capture Rhodes around the neck with the rope and strangle him. The heavy rope was clumsy, however, and Graham couldn't seem to get it right. Frustrated, the champion didn't realize Rhodes had revived and was about to mount a counter-offensive.

What Graham couldn't accomplish Rhodes succeeded at brilliantly. With a swift series of maneuvers, Dusty had Graham with the rope around his neck, dangling over the ring ropes. Graham was literally being hanged. The crowd cheered wildly.

Desperately, Graham forced himself free. In doing so, Billy fell on the announcer's table. When he arose, his face was masked in blood. Now both men were scarlet warriors, battling through their agony and a veil of blood.

It was a brutal exhibition of wrestling savagery. The crowd was stomping and shreiking at every maneuver. And then, before anyone realized what had happened, it was over. Graham and Rhodes collided, knocking each other senseless. Somehow, with determination that was awesome, Graham crawled and flopped toward his opponent. He lay upon his fallen foe with his last ounce of strength. Exhausted, Graham retained his title.

Dusty, not realizing the match was over, revived, and started over again. Graham took an incredible amount of punishment before the referee could explain to Dusty the match was already over. Graham quickly fled the ring, the title belt his. Dusty remained, still a beacon of hope for his legions.

The match was over. Dusty failed to take Graham's title. Many of the fans cried. But Dusty has deserved another chance. Some day. Once again, star wars! □

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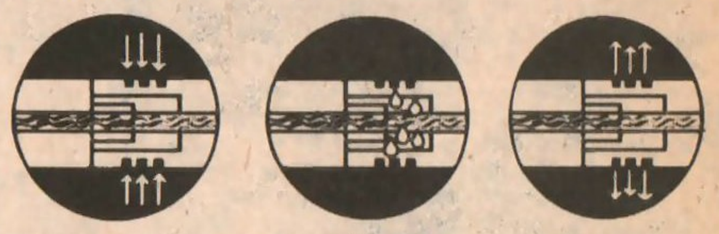

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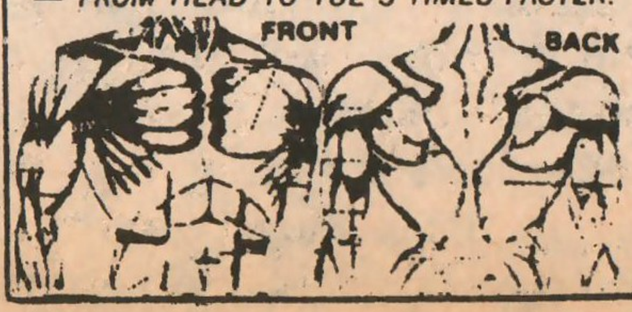

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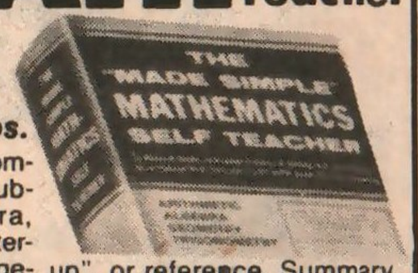

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RIC FLAIR

(Continued from Page 29)

Andre shows off some of his scientific skills (above and below) and Flair is completely at the Giant's mercy.

again. I cannot concentrate my time on going for a major championship if I still have to worry about Ric Flair. This is slowly killing me. Something has to be done about him. He has to give me another chance."

Does he? Flair is content right now to do nothing but wait. "How long will Andre bide his time for me?" wonders Flair. "I feel no immediate need to wrestle him. I've seen what he has to offer as an opponent, and I am not impressed. He's big, but he'd dumb. If I hadn't been disqualified by that paid-off referee, things would be very different now. I would have won, and that would be the end of it.

"But I would like to beat that big oaf, just to show him who the better wrestler is. He certainly should learn that he cannot defeat Ric Flair. After all, am I not his ultimate challenge? He says I am."

Flair is right. There is no question about it. Because of Andre's personal needs, Ric has the Giant in a very bad situation. And that is just where Ric would like to keep him.

"I don't *have* to wait for Ric Flair," says Andre. "I *want* to wait for him! But if things should get bad enough, I will just move on. I have time. I've waited a long time for this challenge. I can wait a bit longer. That doesn't bother me.

"Ric Flair is wrong if he thinks I'm going to vegetate while I wait for a rematch. I have other places to go, other men to wrestle. I could still go ahead with my plans to re-enter title competition. What I do is my own choice. It does not have to depend on Ric Flair's whims.

"But I do want the rematch. It will prove, once and for all, if I am as good a wrestler as I could hope to be. I want to have that thrill I experience when I wrestled Flair the first time. I want to be taken to my limits and beyond. I want to defeat the professional rulebreaker, who is as proficient in illegal maneuvers as I am in scientific tactics.

"And I will have what I want. There are plenty of promoters willing to arrange a rematch between myself and Flair. There will come a time when Ric Flair will want to make the match again. I'll be there, ready and waiting.

"I need the challenge. I need to prove myself to myself. I hope my fans will understand why I am doing this. It is important. It is essential. My whole future as a wrestler depends on how I do against Ric Flair."

But for now, Ric Flair just wants to sit back and wait. And make Andre suffer. □

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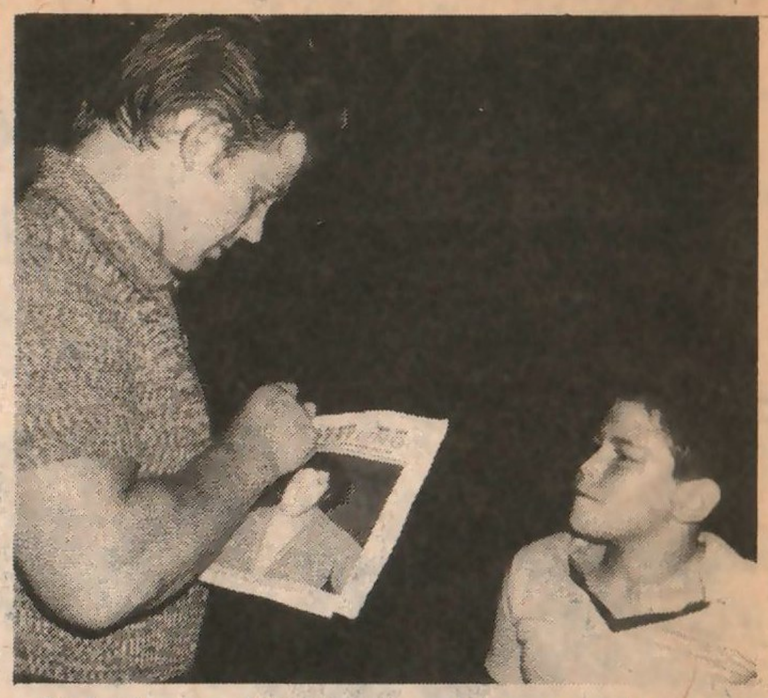
ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 39)



Bob loves his fans and never turns down a request to sign an autograph.

does marine pushups, situps, squat thrusts, chinups, weightlifting, jumping jacks, kneebends, and then jogs for over five miles. Trying to keep up with Bob makes a companion humble. Even other wrestlers have been known to look at Bob's regimen in wonder.

"I try to work out every day," Bob avers, "although I've been known to miss one day every two weeks. If I miss two days in a row, I feel it. In James Dickey's novel, *Deliverance,* one of the characters says he was glad when he broke his leg because it meant he didn't have to exercise. There are days I understand exactly what he meant.

"I have no choice, though. This is what it takes to be champion. And I want to be champion."

Later in the day, Bob sparred with Lanny Poffo. The young man is a ruthless wrestler even in sparring, but that's what Bob wanted. The next opponent was to be Lord Al Hays.

Going from Kirby to Hays spans all of rulebreaking. Where Kirby is reckless, Hays is subtley savage. Kirby is a test of strength and endurance. Hays is a battle of wits as well as brawn. Most wrestlers wouldn't go from one to the other without several weeks of preparation. Bob is in a hurry.

Against Lord Al Hays, Bob was brilliant. It was a masterful exhibition of wrestling strategy. Hays and Backlund grappled with

Showing his tremendous strength, Bob lifts Roger Kirby. Note the amazement on Kirby's face. "I never knew the kid was so strong," Kirby said later.

awesome control. The time limit ran out before either man could establish an advantage. The crowd cheered respectfully after the battle ended.

In the dressing room, Hays exclaimed, "Where did that kid learn everything? I was using maneuvers no kid could possibly stop. Someone's going to have to break both his legs real soon or everyone will be in trouble. He's too good. He's much too good!"

Bob heard this quote as he was driving on to his next match. A smile crossed his face as Hays' opinion of him was quoted. Still, he didn't dwell on it. After all, there were other matches to win and other opponents to face. A lot to learn in a short time.

The car traveled swiftly over the highway. A map lying next to Bob had the next destination circled in red ink. It was a town only the inhabitants knew existed. Bob wanted to wrestle there, though, because it meant new people and a new challenge.

When the match was over, he was one step closer to the title. □

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THE VALIANTS

(Continued from Page 42)

person to resist getting some revenge. The Valiants were down and the promoters loved it. All right, it was a cheap bully trick which made the promoters sink to the Valiants' level. But it felt good."

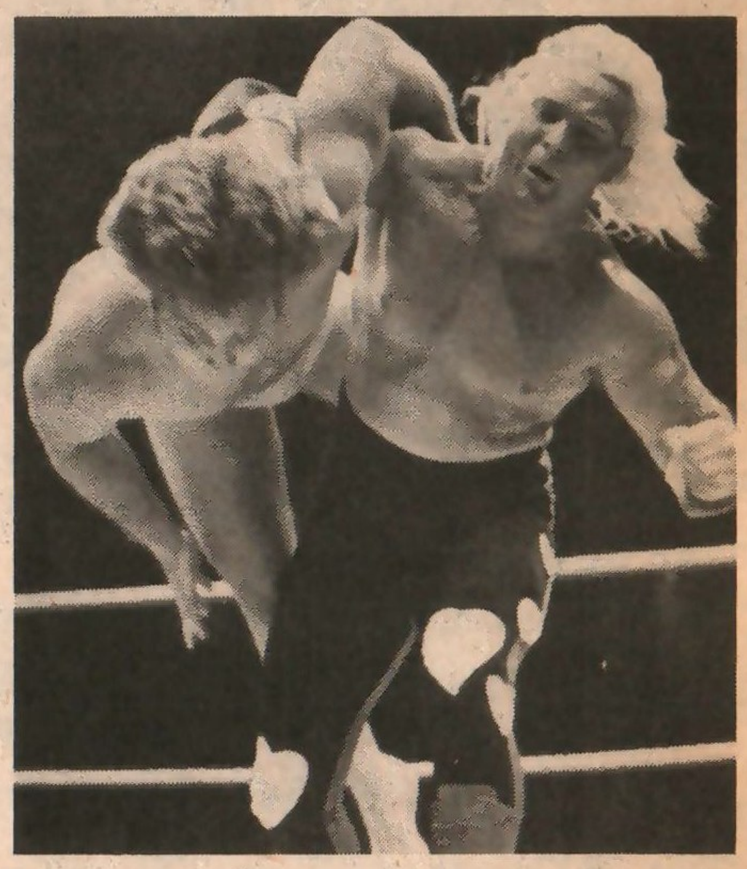
Clare was quick to point out this situation will not be here for long. "The promoters aren't fools. The Valiants are too popular to stay down for long. There isn't an arena in the world where those two brothers can't help but make a fortune. At this point, promoters are just flexing their muscles. But the Valiants will be back in all the top arenas. In fact, I've scheduled them for next month. The boys have stewed long enough."

When the Valiants were confronted with Clare's statement, Jim shouted, "The man's a liar! We've always been kind, considerate, thoughtful, quiet grapplers. Why, we even made improvements in the dressing rooms. No one can say we were anything but gentlemen. They should have been honored to have us there.

"There's an official blacklist against us. We're too big, too good for them. They're afraid of us so now we must be destroyed. Don't let them fool you or the fans. We're being run out of wrestling! They want out heads on a platter!

"I've made some offers way beneath anything I've even thought about in past years. If there wasn't a blacklist, those offers would have been snapped up. We've gotten a few matches, but how long can those promoters hold out against the tide of pressure others will make them withstand? No, we're doomed. And we want the fans to know why! We . . . are . . . being . . . blacklisted! Print it 100 times.

In happier times, the Valiants held the WWWF tag team title (above). Jim Valiant sends Jim Brunzell flying (below).



We . . . are . . . being . . . blacklisted!"

Despite Valiant's fears, as this article is being written, the Valiants are getting more matches all over the country. The worst seems to be over. Whether one agrees with the promoters' tactics or not now seems to be just a question of principle. The fact of the Valiants difficulty in earning a living seems to be ending. The "unofficial blacklist" is all but over.

Perhaps the Valiants have learned a lesson. Hopefully the promoters have gotten revenge out of their system. The effect this will have on the Valiants remains to be seen. Some feel the duo's return will usher in very dangerous times for wrestling. No one is better at revenge than the Valiants. □

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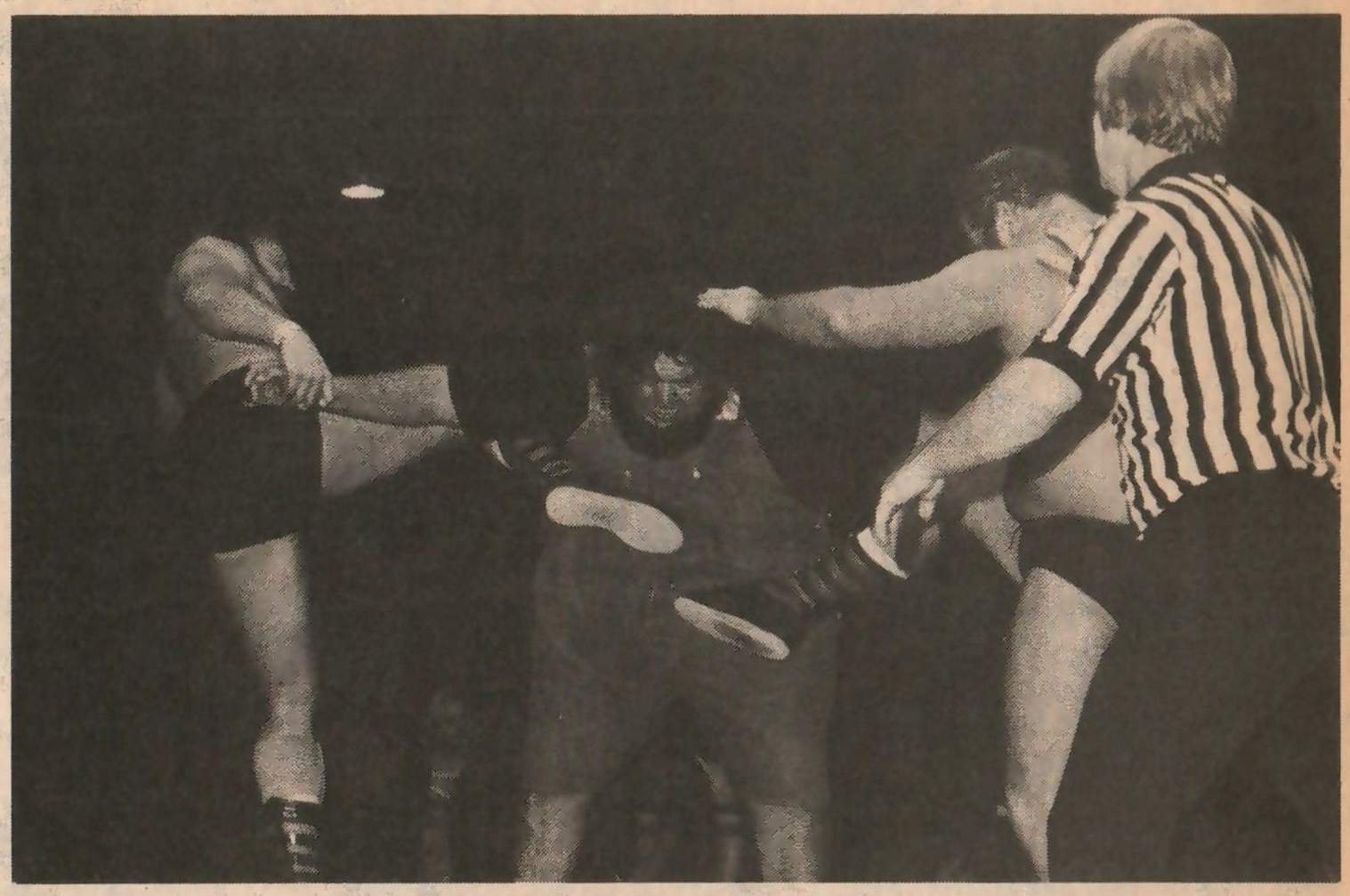
THE ANDERSONS

(Continued from Page 45)



Haystacks Calhoun becomes the unfortunate victim of the expert doubleteaming efforts of the Anderson Brothers. After the match, they candidly admitted that they made a bloody mess out of Calhoun because the fans were rooting for the 601 pound wrestler.

fervor. There may be other reasons the Andersons lost, but one can't discount the loss of anger as a contributing factor. Without the hatred of the fans, the Andersons collapsed.

Since losing the title, Gene and Ole have regained their championship form. They have also regained the fans' rage. Whenever the Andersons appear, screams of hatred accompany them. And their opponents fall to an agonizing doom.

Other wrestlers tend to believe the Andersons when they say they need the fans' disgust. Robert Fuller, who along with Haystacks Calhoun wrestled against the pair, explains how this can happen.

"There's a lot of mind games a professional athlete uses to give himself an advantage," Fuller says, "ways to psyche himself up.It's little more than superstition, really. However, he grows to depend on these games and panics when something goes wrong. That's what happened to the Andersons against Valentine and Flair. They needed the sound of booing to make them feel comfortable, make them feel like everything is the same when they last won. I'd say the Andersons defeated themselves against Flair and Valentine.

"What surprised me is that the Andersons didn't learn from that match. They still claim to be dependent on the fans' hatred. If I lost a match like they did, I'd take a good hard look at myself. That would be the end of my superstition right there. But the Andersons insist on maintaining their belief in needing the fans' booing. That's insane. And stupid. You'd think they'd realize they need only themselves. And these men are professionals."

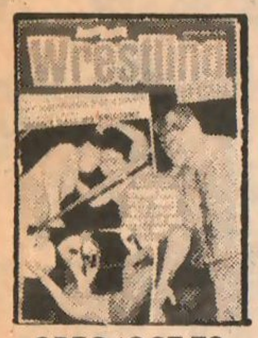
Many wrestlers have expressed Fuller's shock at the Andersons inability to shake off their need for the fans' rage. What's more, their collegues are stunned Gene and Ole are willing to make their need public.

"Don't they realize," Fuller asks, "the fans will hear of this and stop booing. That would be the end of the Andersons. They would collapse. So if the fans really hated Gene and Ole, there'd be silence when the two entered the arena. The Andersons would go berserk. And they'd lose. I don't think these clowns have enough brains to overcome this dependency."

The fans know now what makes the Andersons so dangerous. It's in the fans' power to destroy the pair. It's also in the fans' power to make the Andersons the most dangerous team in wrestling history. ☐

SPORTS REVIEW Wrestling

BACK ISSUES

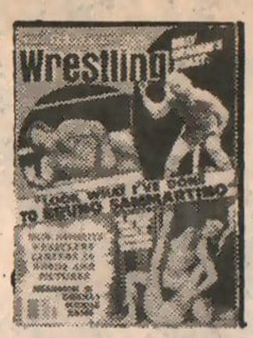

SPEC/OCT 72

DEC/73

JULY/75

NOV/75

JAN/76


MAY/76

JULY/76

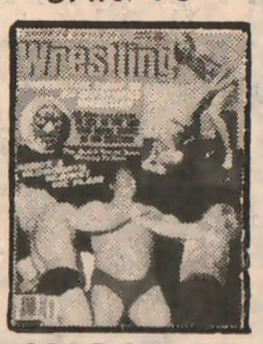
SEPT/76

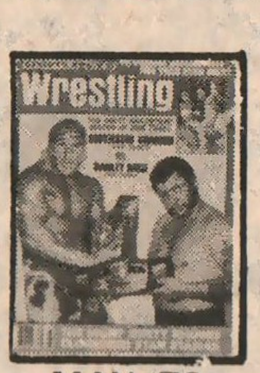
JAN/77

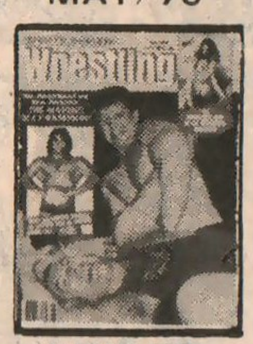
NOV/77

JAN/78

FEB/78


MARCH/78


MAY/78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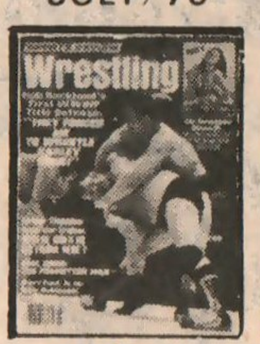
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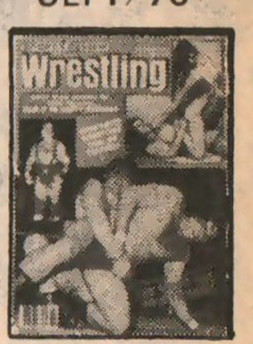
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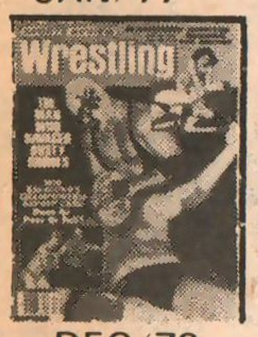
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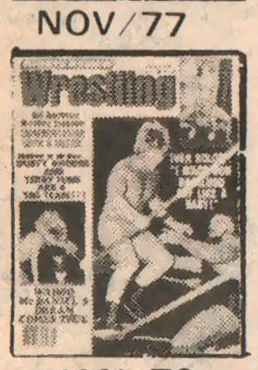
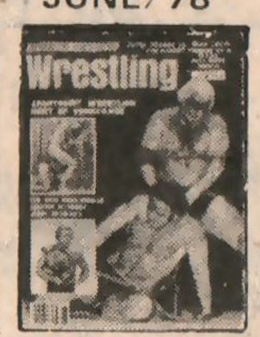

JAN/79

FEB/79

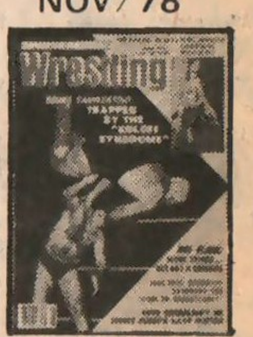
MARCH/79

APRIL/79

MAY/79

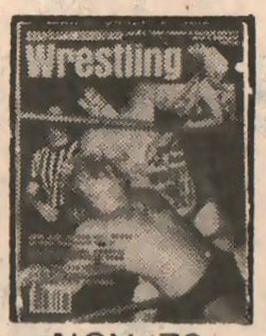

JUNE/79

JULY/79


AUG/79

SEPT/79

OCT/79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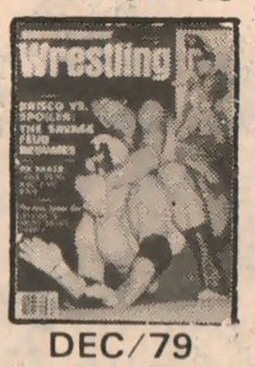
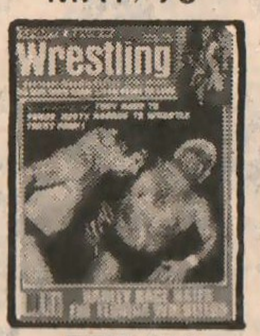
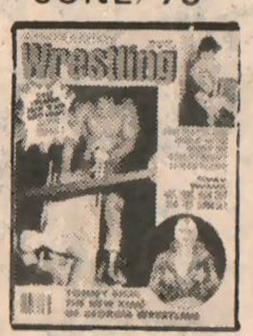
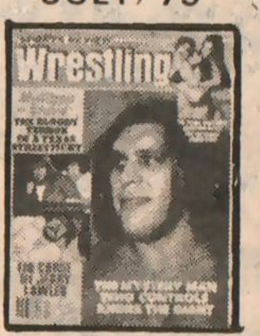

DEC/79

JAN/80


FEB/80


MAR/80


APR/80

MAY/80

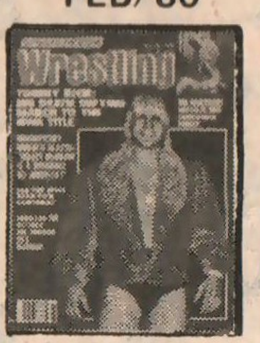
JUNE/80

JULY/80

AUG/80

SEPT/80

OCT/80


NOV/80

DEC/80

JAN/81

FEB/81

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED
ORDER TODAY

MAR/81

NO ORDERS ACCEPTED FOR $1

SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING

- ☐ SPEC OCT/72
- ☐ DEC/73
- ☐ JULY/75
- ☐ NOV/75
- ☐ JAN/76
- ☐ MAY/76
- ☐ JULY/76
- ☐ SEPT/76
- ☐ JAN/77
- ☐ NOV/77
- ☐ JAN/78
- ☐ FEB/78
- ☐ MARCH/78
- ☐ MAY/78
- ☐ JUNE/78
- ☐ JULY/78
- ☐ NOV/78
- ☐ DEC/78
- ☐ JAN/79
- ☐ FEB/79
- ☐ MARCH/79
- ☐ APRIL/79
- ☐ MAY/79
- ☐ JUNE/79
- ☐ JULY/79
- ☐ AUG/79
- ☐ SEPT/79
- ☐ OCT/79
- ☐ NOV/79
- ☐ DEC/79
- ☐ JAN/80
- ☐ FEB/80
- ☐ MAR/80
- ☐ APR/80
- ☐ MAY/80
- ☐ JUNE/80
- ☐ JULY/80
- ☐ AUG/80
- ☐ SEPT/80
- ☐ OCT/80
- ☐ NOV/80
- ☐ DEC/80
- ☐ JAN/81
- ☐ FEB/81
- ☐ MAR/81

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NY 11571

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Offer #2: Any 2 magazines (your choice) for $3.00
Offer #3: Any 3 magazines (your choice) for $4.00
Offer #4: Any 4 magazines (your choice) for $5.00
Offer #5: Any 10 magazines (your choice) for $10.00

I choose offer # _____ and enclose $_____ to order books checked. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. PRINT YOUR NAME & ADDRESS CLEARLY

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

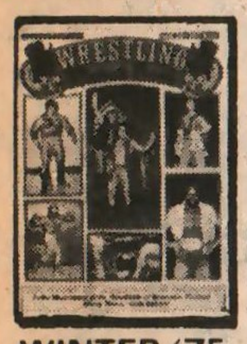
STATE _____ ZIP _____

DO NOT USE OLD ORDER FORMS **DO NOT ORDER ANY ISSUE NOT LISTED** **DO NOT SEND COINS**

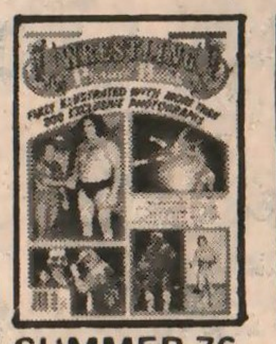
BACK ISSUES SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING SPECIALS

THE MOST INCREDIBLE

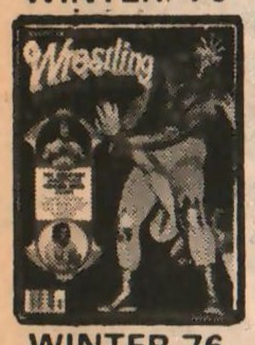
PICTURE BOOK

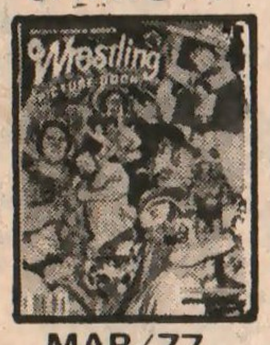

WINTER/75

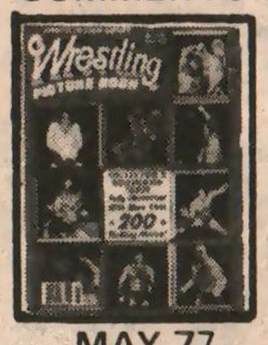
SPRING 76

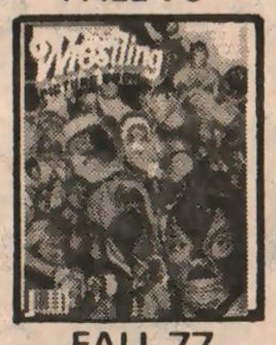

SUMMER 76

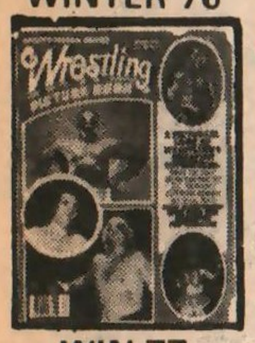
FALL 76


WINTER 76

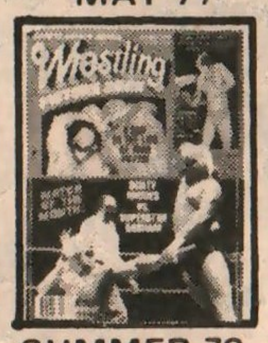

MAR/77


MAY 77


FALL 77


WIN 77

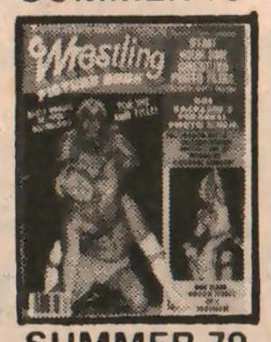
SPRING 78

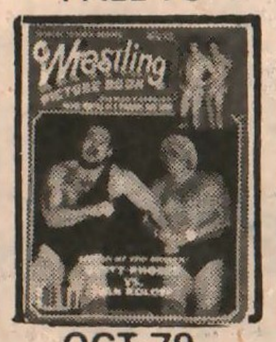

SUMMER 78

FALL 78

WINTER 78

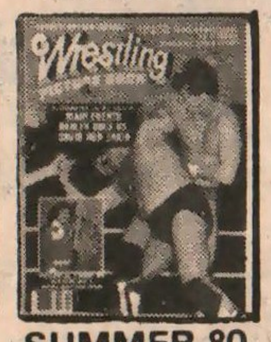
SPRING 79


SUMMER 79

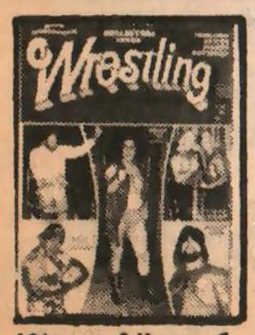

OCT 79

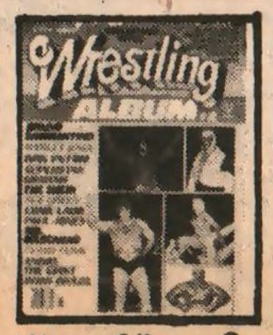
JAN 80

SPRING 80


SUMMER 80

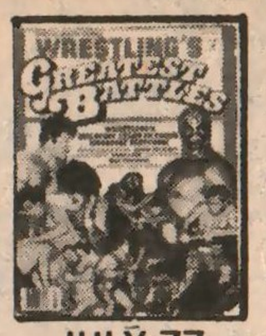
ALBUM


Wres. Album 1

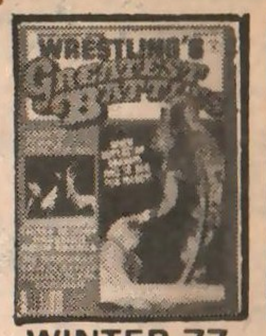

Wres. Album 2

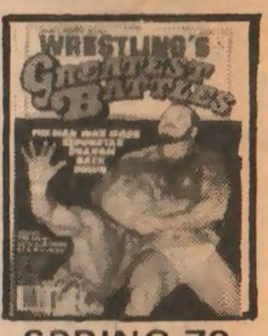
GREATEST BATTLES

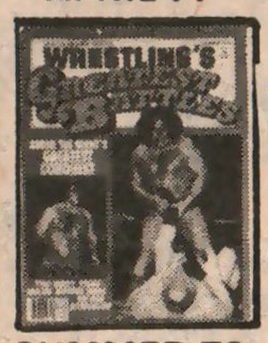
APRIL 77


JULY 77

FALL 77


WINTER 77

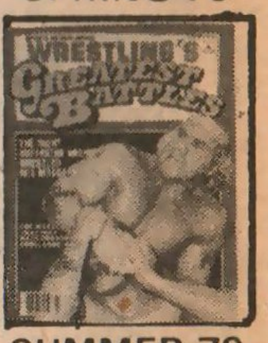

SPRING 78


SUMMER 78

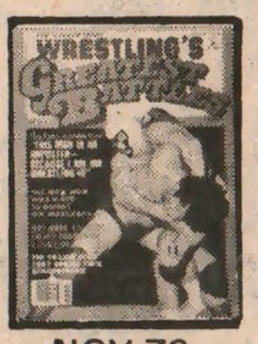
SOLD OUT

WINTER 78

SPRING 79


SUMMER 79

SOLD OUT

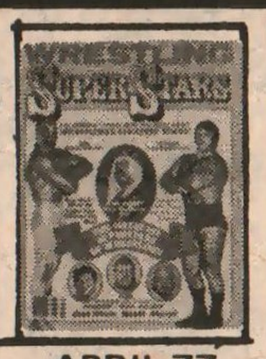

NOV 79

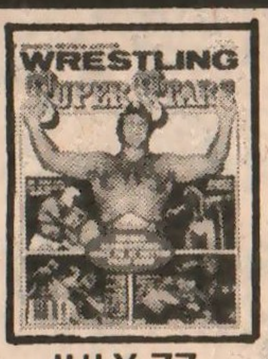
SOLD OUT

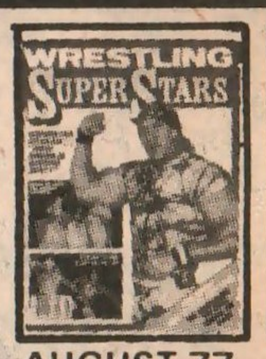
DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED *ORDER TODAY*

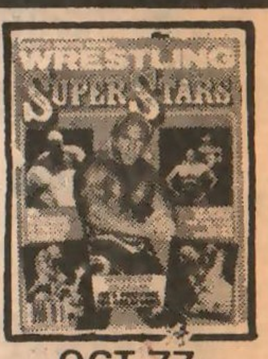
SUPERSTARS

WINTER 76


APRIL 77

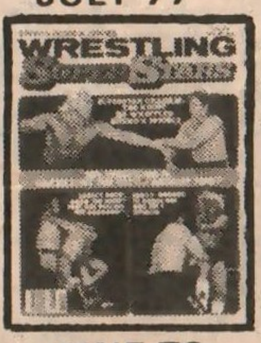

JULY 77


AUGUST 77

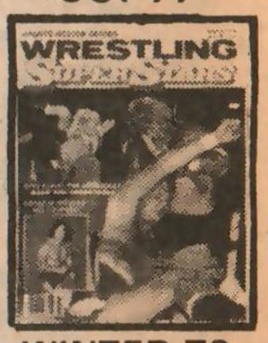

OCT 77

DEC 77

APRIL 78

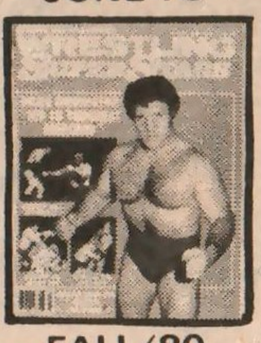

JUNE 78

FALL 78


WINTER 78

JAN 80

SPRING/80


FALL/80

WINTER 80

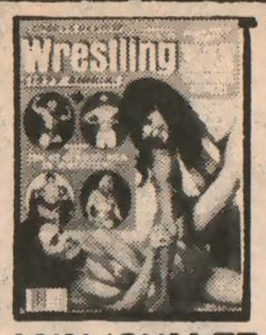
NO ORDERS ACCEPTED FOR $1

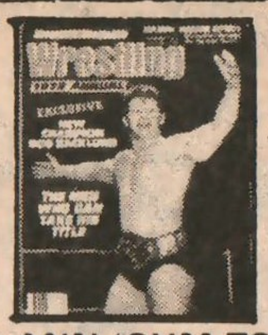
GRAB BAG IN WRESTLING HISTORY

ANNUALS

ANNUAL 1

ANNUAL 4


ANN/SUM 77


ANN/SUM 78

ANN/FALL 78

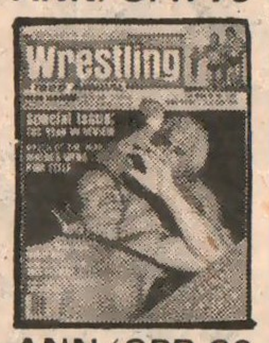
ANN/WIN 78

ANN/SPR 79

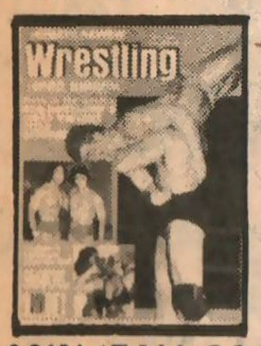
ANN/SUM 79

ANN/NOV/79

ANN/FEB 80


ANN/SPR 80

ANN/SUM 80


ANN/FALL 80

ANN/WIN 80

BEST OF WRESTLER

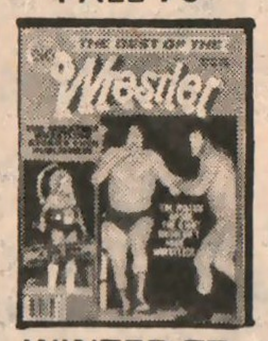
FALL 76

WINTER 76

SPRING 77

SUMMER 77

FALL 77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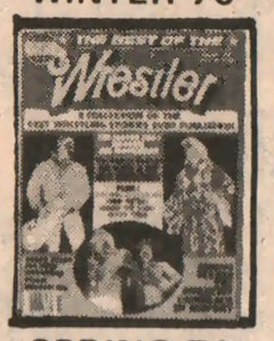
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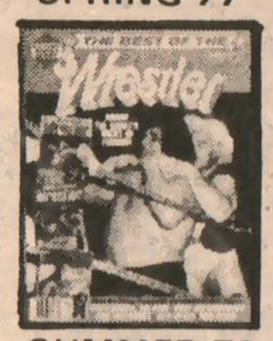
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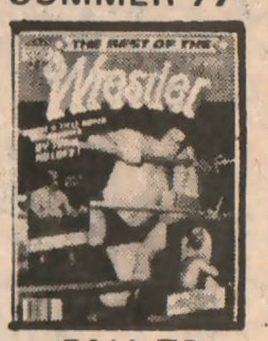
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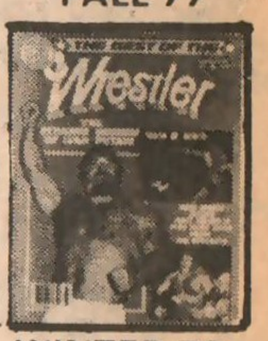
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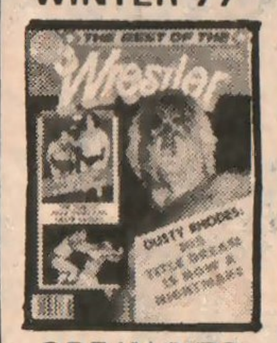
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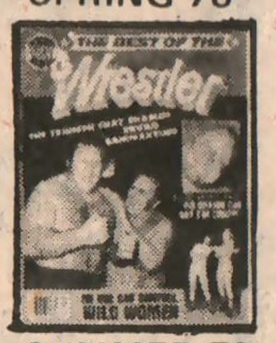
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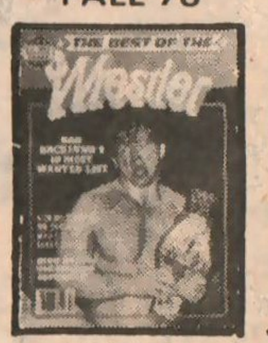
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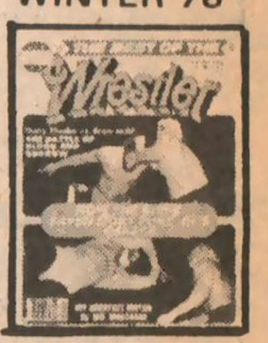
SPRING/80

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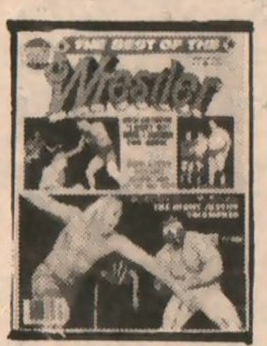
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- ☐ Picture Book/Win 78
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- ☐ Great Battles/Win 78
- ☐ Great Battles/Spr 79
- ☐ Great Battles/Sum 79
- ☐ Great Battles/Nov 79

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- ☐ Superstars/Apr 77
- ☐ Superstars/July 77
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- ☐ Superstars/June 78
- ☐ Superstars/Fall 78
- ☐ Superstars/Win 78
- ☐ Superstars/Jan 80
- ☐ Superstars/Spr 80
- ☐ Superstars/Fall 80
- ☐ Superstars/Win 80

ANNUALS

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- ☐ ANNUAL 4
- ☐ ANNUAL/Sum 77
- ☐ ANNUAL/Sum 78
- ☐ ANNUAL/Fall 78
- ☐ ANNUAL/Win 78
- ☐ ANNUAL/Spr 79
- ☐ ANNUAL/Sum 79
- ☐ ANNUAL/Nov 79
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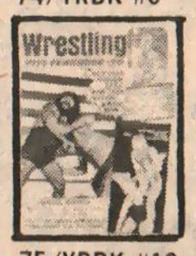
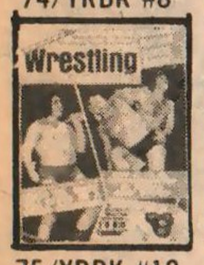

75/YRBK #10

SOLD OUT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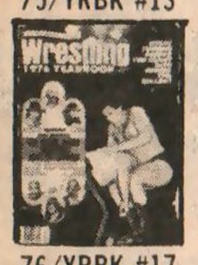
75/YRBK #13

75/YRBK #14

76/YRBK #15

76/YRBK #16


76/YRBK #17

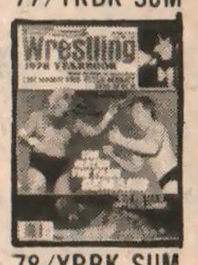
77/YRBK SPR

77/YRBK SUM

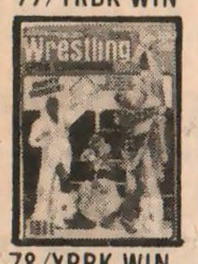
77/YRBK FALL

77/YRBK WIN

78/YRBK SPR


78/YRBK SUM

78/YRBK FALL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79/YRBK SPR

79/YRBK SEPT

79/YRBK DEC

79/YRBK WIN

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75/ANN #13

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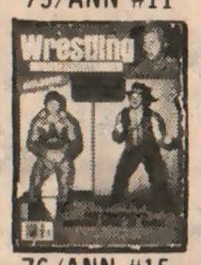
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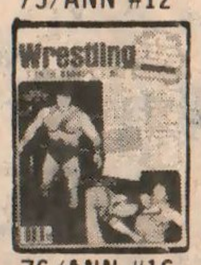
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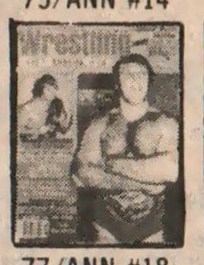
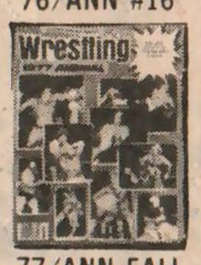
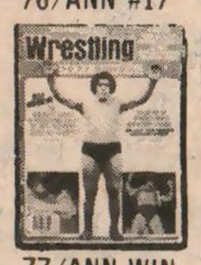
76/ANN #17


77/ANN #18

77/ANN SUM


77/ANN FALL


77/ANN WIN

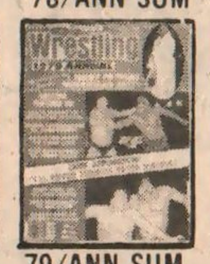
78/ANN SPR

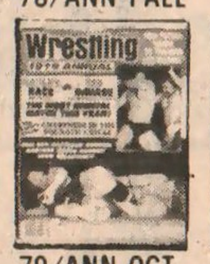
78/ANN SUM

78/ANN FALL

78/ANN WIN

79/ANN SPR


79/ANN SUM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80/ANN JAN

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- ☐ 1978 YEARBOOK FALL
- ☐ 1978 YEARBOOK WIN
- ☐ 1979 YEARBOOK SPR
- ☐ 1979 YEARBOOK SEPT
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- ☐ 1979 YEARBOOK WIN
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- ☐ 1975 ANNUAL #14
- ☐ 1976 ANNUAL #15
- ☐ 1976 ANNUAL #16
- ☐ 1976 ANNUAL #17
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- ☐ 1977 ANNUAL SUM
- ☐ 1977 ANNUAL FALL
- ☐ 1977 ANNUAL WIN
- ☐ 1978 ANNUAL SPR
- ☐ 1978 ANNUAL SUM
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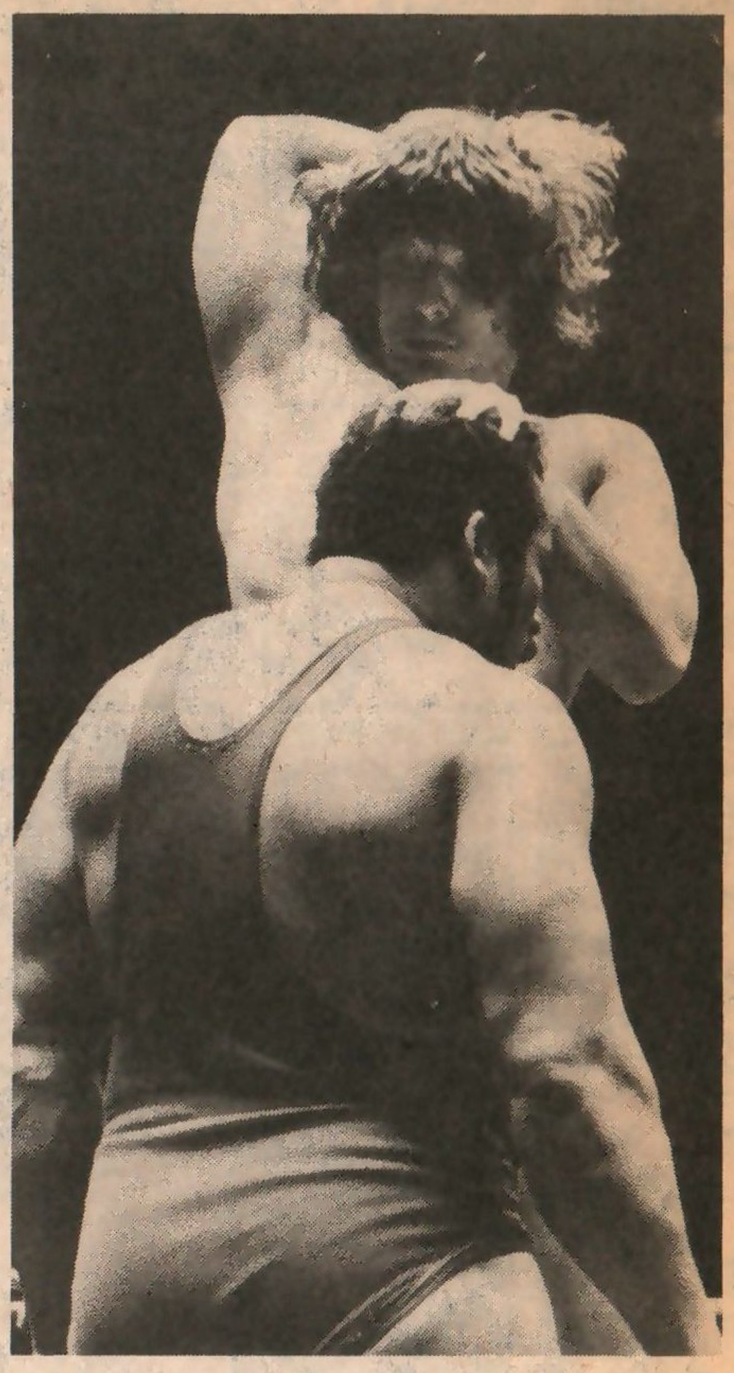
GARDEN ON FIRE

(Continued from Page 14)



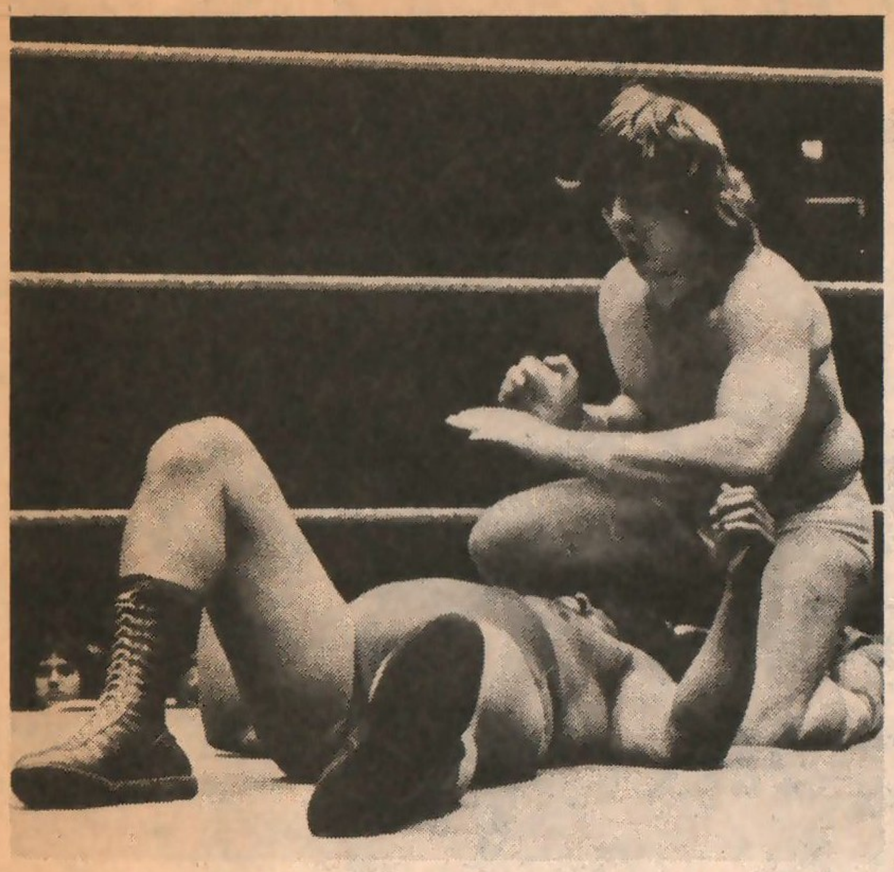
Young Gino Hernandez prepares to give veteran Johnny Rodz a powerful elbow smash. Hernandez went on to win the match over Rodz.

succeeding. He was on some other plane known only to the extraordinary. Everything worked. Mistakes weren't even a possibility.

Eventually, Rodz toppled over the ropes and crashed to the cement. He took one look at the imposing figure standing in the ring, waiting for him, and then thought of the pains coursing through his body. When Johnny finally mustered the strength and courage to return to battle, it was too late. The referee had counted him out. Gino Hernandez had won convincingly in his Madison Square Garden debut.

As the young grappler had his hand raised in victory, the crowd cheered wildly. Those who had risen from their seats in excitement remained standing in tribute. Hernandez trembled with delight. A dream had come true.

Back in the dressing rooms, wrestlers rushed to congratulate the young man. He had made a remarkable debut in one of the most important arenas in the world. Gino Hernandez had woken up that day as a



Gino kneedrops his opponent, just a few moments before the end of the match. The young man had a sensational debut in the Garden. On that particular night, he could do no wrong.

promising rookie. He would go to sleep as a future star.

As might be expected, the press quickly jammed the dressing room for interviews. Hernandez was happily bouncing on the training table as questions flew at him. There was too much excitement to sit still.

"Did you expect to do this well?"

Hernandez laughed before answering, "No one expects to do well. All I wanted was not to be embarrassed. If the devil had come to me and said he could insure I'd lose without being humiliated, I'd have given him my soul on the spot. What happened tonight was an impossible dream come true.

"You wouldn't all be here now if it weren't for Johnny Rodz. He was great tonight, pushed me further than I ever suspected to go. It wouldn't have been much of a match unless Rodz made me battle for my life.

"I've never been better. Every move worked. I didn't even think about anything; it was all natural. It was never so good or so easy."

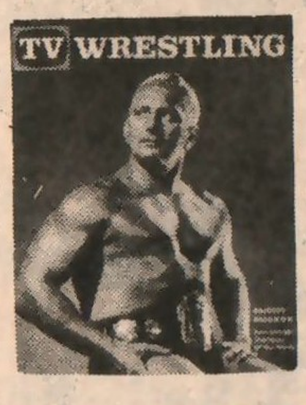
While Gino celebrated his victory, the fans discussed what they had seen. Some cynics declared the bout to be a fluke; no one could keep up that level of excellence. Most others laughed at that, knowing they had seen greatness this night. They would see more greatness on nights to come.

Gino Hernandez excited Madison Square Garden. It was more than a victory. It was a promise for the future. □

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Special Editions

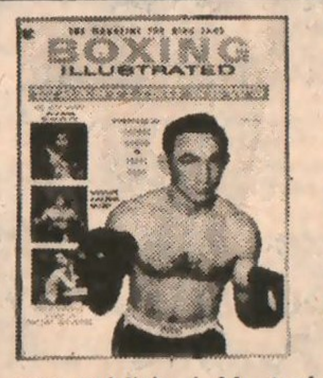
TV WRESTLING ALBUM



THE CLASSIC 1960 TV WRESTLING ALBUM

The first and still the Classic Album of all time. All 68 pages printed on the finest, heavy, coated paper. The Full Page portraits, 58 in all, of the world's greatest wrestlers of that era, some of whom are still active today, are all neatly bordered, ready for framing. And that cover! Ah, probably the greatest portrait of a wrestler ever taken, in full color. Buddy Rogers, champion at that time, is the subject. **$20**

BOXING ILLUSTRATED-WRESTLING NEWS



In November 1958 Stanley Weston launched BOXING ILLUSTRATED-WRESTLING NEWS, which established an entirely new concept in the field of boxing and wrestling magazines. They consisted of about 65 percent boxing and 35 percent wrestling in content of the finest writing and photographs ever published. Most of the very rare issues listed below have not been offered for sale in almost 20 years, and they are among the most highly prized Collector's Issues of all time.

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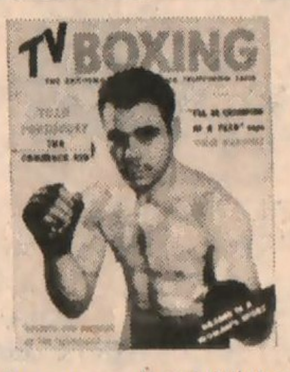
TV BOXING



To meet the public's growing hunger for up-to-the-minute information generated by regular boxing matches shown on the new television medium, Stanley Weston created a new magazine in 1953 to meet the demands. TV BOXING was unique in every way, and while its life's span was less than two years, it established itself as a milestone in the field of boxing magazines. The extremely rare issues listed below have not been offered for sale since 1954.

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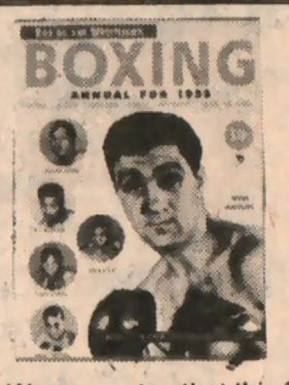
1953 BOXING ANNUAL



This cherished collector's issue consisted of 100 pages of seemingly endless photographs, statistics and complete records of the leading fighters of the day: Marciano, Robinson, Gavilan, DeMarco, Carter, Saddler, Moore. The list goes on and on. And well over 100 great pictures, some in a glowing red tint. We guarantee that this fabulous 1953 Boxing Annual will turn back the clock and make you feel like you are living in those times; thrilling to the unforgettable performances of some of the greatest fighters who ever lived. This was the first Boxing Annual ever published, and to this day it still retains its title: The Best of All Time—The Champion of Champions! **$50**

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All the back issues of the original BOXING ILLUSTRATED-WRESTLING NEWS listed for sale in this ad were edited and published by Stanley Weston, who founded the magazine in 1958 and sold his interests in 1964. Each issue contains an exciting wrestling section, cram-packed with thrilling photos and award-winning stories. No wrestling fan can call his magazine collection complete without these back issue treasures. Remember, these back issues have not been available to the public for over 15 years, although many have been sold by private collectors for as much as $75 a copy. Naturally, the supply is limited, so order today and avoid disappointment.

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KEN PATERA

(Continued from Page 18)

Patera places third in the final competition (above). First place finisher Bruce Wilhelm jokingly threatens Patera during a nationally televised interview.

wants to meet in an alley. But you'll be just a memory if you permanently injure your back."

Patera smirked at the doctor. "And what would they say if I pulled out? 'Patera's scared!' That's what they'd say. Well, I'm afraid of nobody. Even with a bad back, I'm the strongest guy in the world."

"You're a strong man with a bad back who should take care of himself. This is ridiculous. You could be stubborn enough to wind up in a wheelchair. I've said enough. Well, best of luck. You'll need it."

The next day, Ken was picked up by a CBS television limousine. He was taken to Universal Studios in Los Angeles where the "World's Strongest Man Competition" would be held. The most famous strongmen in the world gathered to compete in some of the most imaginatively outlandish events ever witnessed. Although the competition would be shown over a series of weeks, the actual events took place within three days. It was a grueling schedule, guaranteed to tax even the most perfect body.

Patera gave it his all. In agony, he strained to lift and pull and yank. His back was a torture of agony. Still, Patera gave it his all. His ego couldn't dare to let someone else be called "The World's Strongest Man."

But by the second day, Patera knew the doctor was right. Back braces don't perform miracles. The events were made more difficult by their strange nature. The constantly shifting weights put an incredible strain on the muscles. Still, Patera continued

to compete. He might fail, but he would never surrender.

Patera was always near the top, however. From somewhere he managed to find the strength to compete. It was as if he could ignore the pain, command his body to do what couldn't be done. It was a study in courage or ego, probably a combination of the two. Patera even had hopes of winning.

Yet, there is no place in sport for miracles. At the end of the competition, Ken Patera was third. To even place was remarkable, considering his condition.

Patera's strength is undeniable. His courage is incredible. This was an astonishing performance. Though he came in third,

The "tire toss" was just one of the events Patera had to endure in during the long and grueling competition.

Patera proved something far more important than his strength.

The day after the competition, Ken went to the doctor. After an examination, the medical man declared, "You're in a lot better shape than you should be. You're a very lucky guy. I really expected to be treating you in a hospital."

Patera thanked the man and left. He was angry. When you have Ken Patera's ego, you expect miracles. □

INTRODUCTION

(Continued from Page 6)

amazed when reading it today.

• **The Joyless Triumph of Steve Keirn and Mike Graham** showed that even great triumphs and championship belts can sometimes be hollow achievements.

• **Star Wars** has been our single most requested and honored story since it first appeared in February 1978. The article concerned the great Madison Square Garden bout between then-WWF champion Superstar Graham and number one challenger Dusty Rhodes.

• **On The Road With Bob Backlund** offered a behind-the-scenes look at the rising superstar in January 1978, a month before he would capture the WWF belt that he still holds today. The story is replete with Backlund's innermost thoughts, hopes, and fears as he approached the turning point in his career.

• **Have The Valiants Been Blacklisted?** was a question we asked in September 1977, shortly after the blond duo lost their WWF tag team titles. It seems many promoters throughout the country refused to use the brother team. This story tried to investigate why.

• **The More You Hate The Andersons, The Better They Become** was first published in May 1977. Since then, the Andersons have become even more hated. Unfortunately, they have also become even better wrestlers. We guess this proves the article was correct.

There you have it. Another all-star lineup from the greatest name in wrestling magazines, *The Wrestler*. Enjoy! □

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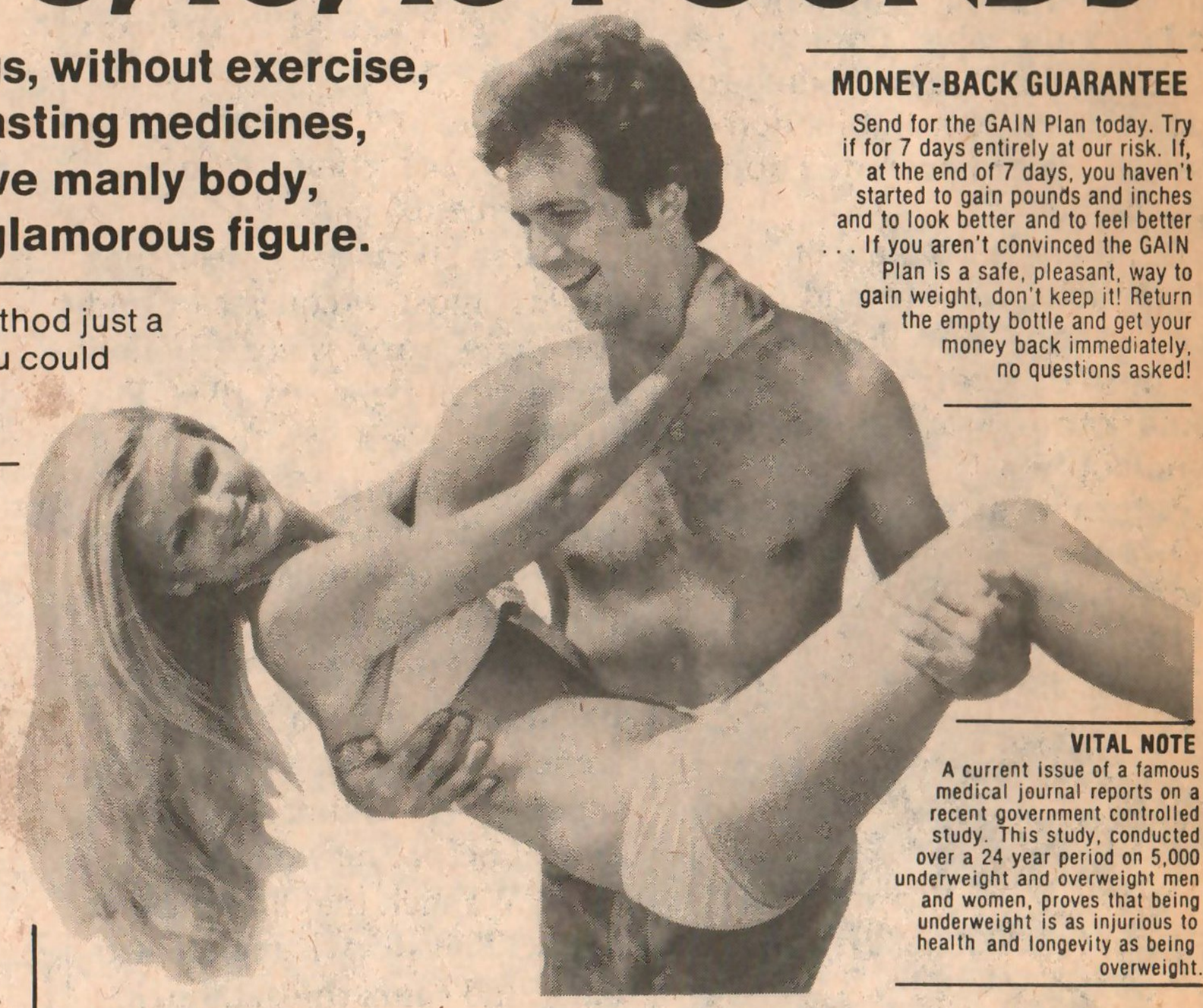

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VITAL NOTE

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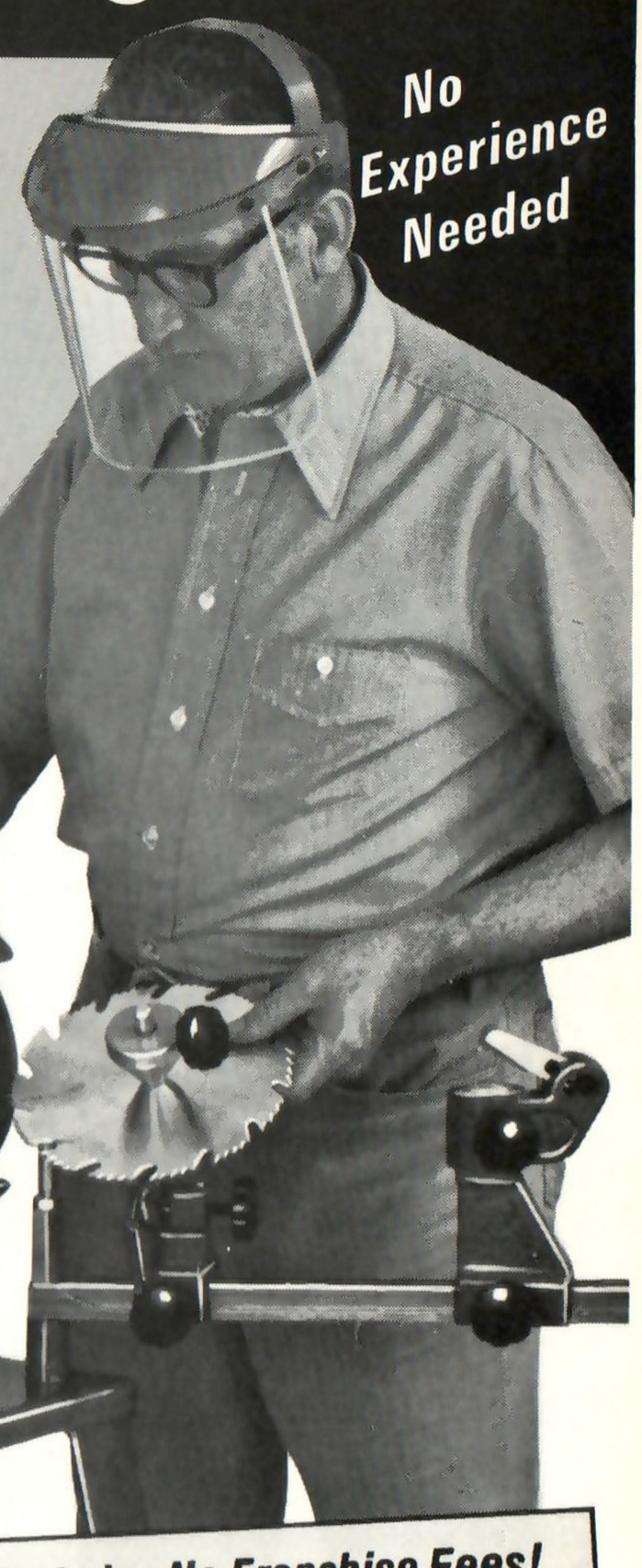

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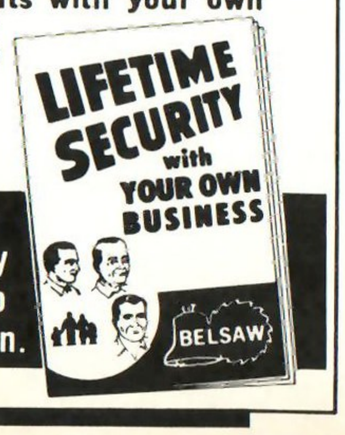

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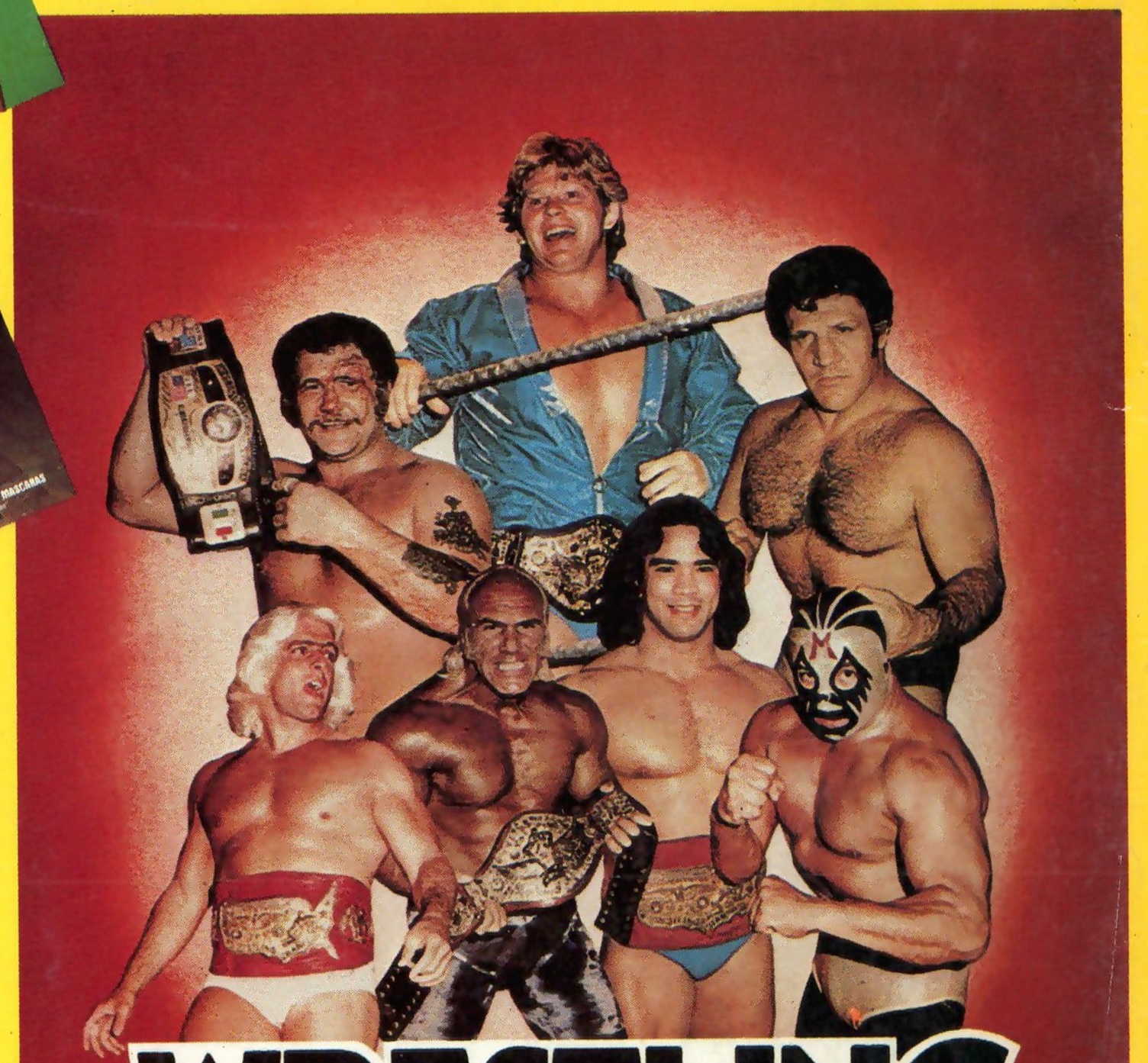

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